

Saddam demands end to sanctions

NJCOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Wednesday renewed his call for an end to economic sanctions and accused fellow Arabs of delaying the lifting of the embargo, the Iraqi News agency reported. "They pay bribes here and there to stop the escalating movement towards lifting the unjust siege on the people of Iraq," President Saddam said in a nationally broadcast address. He did not specify which countries he was accusing, but he was clearly referring to the oil-rich Gulf states. In its most recent review of the sanctions, the U.N. Security Council turned down Iraq's request for the lifting of the embargo. But Baghdad appears to be preparing its oil export facilities and trying to woo European and American companies to prospect for oil in Iraq. The Iraqi News agency, quoted President Saddam as saying the United States, Israel and Western-aligned Arab states were conspiring to maintain the embargo in place. "But they will not be able to undermine the steadfastness of the Iraqis, who will continue forward through the rubble of injustice and the wall of the embargo, protected by the slogan God is great," he said.

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Jordan, PLO launch crucial talks

King meets top-level team led by Kaddoumi; statements indicate agreement to focus on immediate and urgent issues

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday opened talks seen crucial to the course of coordination in Middle East peace-making and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

No immediate details were available on the outcome of two lengthy meetings between high-level delegations from the two sides, but it appeared that the discussions had reached a point where talks on a general framework for future relations were being given to specific issues which need urgent attention.

PLO sources in Tunis said the delegation, led by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the organisation's political department and including three members of the Executive Committee, was empowered by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to start "serious and indepth discussions on all aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship" as well as a draft economic agreement that was worked out in November but remained unendorsed by the PLO leadership.

"The leadership has decided that the delegation will discuss components of the agreement and reach immediate practical



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives PLO delegation chief Farouk Kaddoumi (Petra photo)

decisions with Jordan on the provisions that are not disputed by either side," said a senior PLO source.

The highlight of what observers described as a possible new era in Jordan-PLO coordination was a meeting Wednesday between His Majesty King Hussein and the visiting PLO delegation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and the

PLO delegation reviewed "the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, stressing the importance of enhancing coordination (between Jordan and the PLO) in light of the King's two recent addresses and in accordance with objective principles which would serve the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

It was a reference to King

Hussein's strong calls on Mr. Arafat to adopt a clearly defined political course of action and coordination with Jordan based on sincerity towards serving the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

In two speeches, one on Saturday and the other on Tuesday, the King signalled growing Jordanian impatience with the lack of coordination by the PLO and clearly set a

deadline for the revival of joint committees.

It was the "last chance" for coordination, the King warned, and Jordan reserved the option to adopt whatever action it found fit to protect its national interests if the PLO did not rise to the level of the responsibilities.

During Wednesday's audience, Mr. Kaddoumi, who was dispatched here by Mr. Arafat in response to the King's call, "emphasised the importance of Jordan's role in defending the Palestinian cause," Petra said.

"The PLO recognises the courageous Jordanian role in defending the rights of the Palestinian people and supporting them in all fields," Petra quoted Mr. Kaddoumi as saying.

The PLO official specifically referred to Jordan's acceptance of Palestinians displaced from their homes despite the Kingdom's limited resources and the challenges it faced, Petra said.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister Saad Al Tal and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PLO

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Hurd arrives after announcing British aid for Palestinians

By P.V. Vivekanand
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived here Wednesday for a one-day visit during which he is expected to discuss the role of Britain and the European Union (EU) in the Middle East peace process as well as Jordanian-British relations.

Mr. Hurd, who began his current Middle East visit in Lebanon and visited Israel and the occupied territories, arrived here after announcing a \$100 million British contribution to help Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Hurd, who was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, paid tribute to Anglo-Jordanian relations and underlined Jordan's role in the 26-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"It is important to pursue contacts with Jordan at this obviously important, dramatic time in the history of the peace process," said Mr. Hurd, who arrived here from Israel, "Britain and Jordan have kept very close touch for many years."

The British official was escorted immediately after arrival to the Royal Palace for a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein for talks on the latest developments in Middle East peace-making and bilateral relations.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Hurd visited the occupied Gaza Strip and got a firsthand look at the squalid living conditions in the most densely populated areas in the world.

During the visit to Gaza, where he saw disease, pollution and impact of violence, Mr. Hurd announced the \$100 million aid for Palestinians.

Mr. Hurd said the money would be donated over the next three years to the Palestinian autonomy authority to help pay for training police officers, setting up a Palestinian radio station and providing scholarships for Palestinians among other projects.

In London, the Foreign Office confirmed that the sum pledged Wednesday was separate from Britain's contribution to the \$600 million the European Community (EC) will donate over five years.

Mr. Hurd said the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories underscored the urgency in making progress in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Hurd visited U.N. headquarters in Gaza City, a British-financed eye clinic and the British cultural centre, but stayed away from refugee camps, saying he did not want to cause a commotion that could possibly lead to violence.

Mr. Hurd described the situation in the Gaza Strip as "disaster" and said it was time to end the Israeli occupation. But it was also up to the PLO, having negotiated a peace, to make it work, he said.

"It is in British interests that this should work, that Palestinians should make a success of running the Gaza Strip and Jericho," Mr. Hurd was quoted as saying.

He spoke of "disease, pollution on a monstrous scale, and violence," as manifestations of the years of Israeli occupation. It would be unthinkable for the peace process to be allowed to slip back, he said.

"It's time to end the occupation. A military occupation is a denial of human rights. There are no political rights in the occupied territories," Mr. Hurd said in his strongest message yet to Israel to abide by

the timetable for a withdrawal set out in its Sept. 13 accord with the PLO.

Once those principles were turned into an agreement, Mr. Hurd said: "It won't be question of lightening the weight of the occupation, it will be a question of ending the occupation."

About 800,000 Palestinians are jammed into the Gaza Strip, 40 kilometres long by eight kilometres wide, most in refugee shantytowns.

"When you come to a place it's more vivid. What has been a fact on paper becomes a vivid, impression before your eyes," Mr. Hurd said.

Asked what he would tell the opponents of the Israel-PLO accord, Mr. Hurd said: "People have a choice between a future that has risks and uncertainties and required a great deal of effort, and a recent past which is a disaster and the evidence of this disaster is all around us."

Mr. Hurd said he had no doubt the Palestinians could create viable communities.

"The Palestinians are among the most gifted people in the Middle East," Mr. Hurd said. "The secret is to get that talent, get that professionalism to work in administering Gaza and Jericho, that's what the PLO has to do."

Mr. Hurd travelled the rubbish-strewn streets of Gaza with advisers from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency which straddles the Gulf between local Palestinian administrators and the hated Israeli authorities.

Mr. Hurd, a former secretary of state for Northern Ireland, said he had to accept the risks of visiting Gaza.

"Anywhere one is in the occupied territories... there is an element of uncertainty. But that's what the people here live through all their lives," he said.

Israel, PLO reach deal to resume talks

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel are set to resume stalled autonomy talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba after agreeing on a compromise to end a week's bickering, negotiators said Wednesday.

Israel had refused to go back to the negotiating table until the PLO agreed to base future discussions on a disputed document drawn up last week in Cairo.

The Palestinians said the text reflected Israeli thinking and had to be changed. An Israeli negotiator said that the two sides would resume negotiations on the basis of the document "but the Palestinians will be able to rediscuss the points which they judge contentious."

The compromise allows both sides to argue that they stood their ground on the draft which Israel leaked after negotiations last week in the Egyptian capital.

In Cairo, a Palestinian negotiator said the talks would probably resume in Taba on Sunday and there would be no "preconditions."

"All the points will be up for negotiation and that's the most important thing." The formulation used for the resumption of talks was unimportant, whether it was "on the basis of the Cairo discussions" or similar wording, he said.

Israel and the PLO have waged a battle of words over their different interpretations of the last round of negotiations, but have been biding intensive consultations in private.

They are trying to agree on details of how to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the autonomy deal signed on Sept. 13.

"The PLO offered us a dozen compromise formulas before giving one that satisfied us," the Israeli negotiator said. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath spoke several times by telephone in a bid to revive the stalled talks.

Earlier, a senior PLO official said in Norway the talks could resume later on Wednesday at Taba.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, asked when negotiating teams would meet again, said: "I'm sure not this week. An agreement has not yet been reached."

"I believe that once we will clarify the rules of the negotiations, what is the status of the papers in Cairo, the understanding in Cairo, we will resume negotiations. I don't know when, the decision will not be taken before tomorrow."

In the Israeli parliament, the government narrowly defeated an opposition motion in parliament to make decisions on banding lands over to the Palestinians subject to the approval of three quarters of all legislators.

The bill, proposed by opposition Likud legislator Meir Shalev, would have led any territorial compromise, as the peace process is backed by just 61 of 120 legislators. Its

defeat was narrow: 52 legislators voted against, 46 for and two abstained.

Parliament also began debate on a bill that would set in motion a system for compensating settlers evacuated from territories handed to Palestinians. Some settlers are already seeking such help to move into Israel itself, although the government has said no settlements would be uprooted for at least five years under the autonomy plan.

Although foreign ministry officials denied any knowledge of resuming the talks, a source in the ministry said talks will resume next week with both sides accepting the Cairo document as the basis, as Israel had demanded.

The official said an intense exchange of faxes Wednesday morning produced a "great closing of the gaps."

"They have accepted our position that the Cairo document is the basis, and we accept that it is legitimate to propose any substantive changes in Taba," he said.

Although the PLO thus retains the right to demand changes in what Israel has insisted was an agreement, the official said it was important for maintaining credibility between the sides that the PLO accepts the Cairo document in principle.

Negotiator Shaath told Radio Monte Carlo that "the tempest invented by Israel" that had held up the Taba talks appeared to have subsided.

"We resume these talks most probably at the beginning of next week without any preconditions," Dr. Shaath said, referring to Israel's demands that the PLO accept the agreement reached last week in Cairo.

The Cairo document summarised a series of compromises on control of border crossings. Reports said the document put the crossings under dual control, staffed by Palestinian police with the flags and other border trappings. But Israel would have

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Troops kill Palestinian in Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a young Palestinian on Wednesday in the Jabalia refugee camp of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

Iyad Abdul Karim Al Hindawi, aged 20, was shot in the head during a clash with an army patrol, the sources said. Israelis have killed 1,164 Palestinians since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Eyewitnesses said Hindawi was shot into the head as he ducked into an alley near the army base in the heart of the refugee camp to escape a group of soldiers about 200 metres away.

The mud in the alley was puddled with blood and pieces of brain scattered across the ground.

After the shooting Palestinian youths continued to stone Israeli army jeeps patrolling the area.

The death brought to 51 the number of Palestinians killed in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy negotiations running into two separate "courses" — Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli and Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli — instead of the four streamlined tracks.

The Jordanians fear that such a scenario, if it actually develops, will further weaken the Arab position and give Israel the opportunity to "hunt down" each Arab party individually.

This fear was also expressed by Dr. Anani when he told

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Syria assails Israel over settlement expansion

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's expansion of a settlement in the Golan Heights, saying the move was aimed at undermining the peace talks with Syria.

The official daily Tishreen also urged Israel to evacuate all Israeli settlers from the Golan if it wanted to make peace with Syria.

It said the settlement expansion was aimed at dealing a blow to the hopes pinned on the summit meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva on Jan. 16, which is aimed at pushing forward the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"While the world looked with hope and confidence to the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva... Israel Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer rushed to found a new neighbourhood in the Katzin settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan..."

"It is natural that Ben-Eliezer is assigned by the government of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin to make this flagrant provocative action which is part of a plan aimed at undermining the U.S. initiative ahead of the Assad-Clinton summit," Tishreen said.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer on Tuesday founded the settlement and rejected suggestions that the hundreds of new homes planned for the site would harm already stalled peace with Syria.

But Tishreen said any peace with Syria could not be achieved without the full return of the Golan and the evacuation of all Israeli settlers from the area.

"The Israelis know, as well as the world, that peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria's effective participation. Peace with Syria is sub-

ject to the return of all the Golan and the evacuation of the settlers from it.

"The Israelis know well, as well as the world, that when Syria says no it means what it says," Tishreen said.

The Golan was the main stumbling block in the two countries' 11 rounds of peace talks held since negotiations began in 1991.

The last round was in Washington in September with Israel rejecting Damascus's insistence on a full Israeli pullout from the Heights in exchange for full peace.

A group of Jewish settlers are to demonstrate in Geneva during the U.S.-Syrian summit on Jan. 16 against any Israeli concessions on the Golan Heights (their leader said Wednesday).

"We are going to Geneva to explain to the media that president (Bill) Clinton has no right to question the Israeli presence on the Golan," said the head of the council of Golan settlements, Eli Malka.

"It would be better for him to look after the internal problems of his own country," Mr. Malka told Israeli radio.

Another Golan leader, Sari-Bar Lev, said the summit would turn to be "hot air."

A U.S. Jewish leader said on Wednesday that Damascus is delaying the promised emigration of Syrian Jews by failing to issue exit visas to entire families.

Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, said only two Jews had emigrated since Syria pledged last month that all Jews who wished to leave would be allowed out by the end of 1993.

Mr. Pollack told a news conference that Jews were refraining from leaving until all family members received permission to go.

Jordan remains committed to comprehensiveness of Mideast peace despite pressures from opposite sides

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's ultimatum to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) this week was a last-ditch attempt to bring back the concept of comprehensiveness to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, analysts and observers believe.

In his address Tuesday to senior officials from the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments, His Majesty King Hussein expressed his "hope (that) we will reach a comprehensive peace with the help of all parties."

Jordanian officials privately say that the Kingdom was worried that the lack of coordination among the Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations was leading to the disintegration of the concept of comprehensiveness, on which these negotiations were initially based, allowing

Israel a chance to divide and rule.

According to those officials, the Kingdom has come under Syrian pressure to drop attempts to bring the PLO back into Arab coordination ranks and work instead towards Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese coordination without the Palestinians.

In view of the fact that the "separate Oslo accord" is going nowhere, the message from Syria was that the upcoming summit meeting in Geneva between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton could be the right opportunity for the three countries to show PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that they have the upper hand.

But the question, according to officials and analysts, was whether Jordan would join such a coalition and give up on attempts to convince the PLO to coordinate with the Kingdom.

Analysts believe that this development placed Jordan in a difficult position since Mr. Arafat had been continually procrastinating over sending his aides to Amman to attend coordination committee talks scheduled to have started last June but which never did.

ANALYSIS

This sentiment was actually expressed by Minister of Information Jawad Anani this week when he said Jordan feared that the lack of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination would force the country "to react in a way that is not in line with its overall policy."

To drop the idea of a comprehensive settlement and allow different Arab parties to reach separate peace accords with Israel would have defied Jordan's policy of waiting until all tracks have

concluded their negotiations with Israel successfully before signing accords simultaneously.

Since Jordanians feel almost certain that President Assad will get something from his meeting with President Clinton on Jan. 16, they felt that they were running out of time in bringing Arab parties to the talks to coordinate their steps and exchange information on developments on their tracks.

Senior Jordanian officials are constructing scenarios for progress on the Syrian front. They believe that while Syria is not expected to give in on its declared intention to accept full peace in return for full withdrawal, it may accept a time-tabled agenda leading to that conclusion if it receives American assurances that would guarantee its economic and security interests.

If this turns out to be true, one seasoned analyst said,

Syria might be seen to be willing to give up its Arab leadership role if the Americans can station American or international troops on the border, maintain Syrian interests in Lebanon and allow Damascus to reap economic benefits of peace.

But Jordan also believes that if this happens without achieving tangible progress on the Palestinian front, there will be the risk of Arab-Israeli negotiations running into two separate "courses" — Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli and Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli — instead of the four streamlined tracks.

The Jordanians fear that such a scenario, if it actually develops, will further weaken the Arab position and give Israel the opportunity to "hunt down" each Arab party individually.

This fear was also expressed by Dr. Anani when he told

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King, Majali receive premier of Ontario

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday Bob Rae, premier of the Canadian state of Ontario.

Discussions covered regional and international issues as well as developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The King and Mr. Rae also reviewed Jordanian-Canadian relations.

The King briefed the visitor on Jordan's efforts towards promoting the peace process, with the hope of reaching a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Canada's ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson attended the audience.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also received Mr. Rae Wednesday.

They discussed Canadian-Jordanian relations and cooperation in a number of fields.

Discussion also covered the peace process and the obstacles hindering further progress along the Jordanian-Israeli track, like the refugees, water and expatriate issues.

Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar attended the meeting.

Rae sees limitless economic development if peace prevails

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Potential economic development in Jordan and the Middle East is limitless should peace prevail in the region, said the visiting premier of Ontario after a two-day visit to Amman which included a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday.

"If there is peace, the sky is the limit in terms of development," said Ontario Premier Bob Rae after a meeting with King Hussein and at the end of an official two-day stay in which the Ontario premier, perhaps the second most powerful man in Canada next to the prime minister, headed a delegation representing Ontario's business community.

While the premier would not say what deals had been struck between Jordanian businesses and the public sector industries during a press conference early Wednesday evening, he said that there were "lots of them."

A joint venture between Aul Foods Limited and the Jordanian Dar Al Dawa Pharmaceutical industry has been tipped to be one among a series of agreements made between the large business group accompanying Mr. Rae and Jordanian firms, sources close to the delegation told the Jordan Times.

Ontario, with a population of nearly 10 million people is Canada's largest province and is known for exporting its infrastructure know-how and products. Among the most significant of these which the Canadian delegation is known to have lobbied for in Jordan are small civilian aircraft, railroads and telecommunications as well as construction companies and hydro infrastructure.

While Jordan does not have a most favoured trading status with Canada, the Ontario premier hinted that Jordan could receive a good status depending on its role in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Stressing that the business delegation's main purpose in visiting Jordan, the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories and Israel was to "express Canada's support of the peace process," the premier also said that "trade and development will increase when there is an emerging political consensus."

The delegation's aim was to explore the potential regional and national infrastructure development possibilities in the event of "a successful evolution of the peace process."

Jordan, said Premier Rae, was playing a pivotal role in

the region in regards to the Arab-Israeli peace process and the regional tranquility. The premier referred to Jordan's neutral stand in the Gulf crisis as having "increased Jordan's credibility" and "increased respect" for His Majesty King Hussein's judgment among those who are "well-informed about the region."

Premier Rae also said "if there was peace" Jordan was ideally located to act as a hub for regional infrastructure. There had also been "lots of hints" of regional cooperation on such issues of rail links, road links and telecommunications links during Premier Rae's five-day visit in Israel (Dec. 28-Jan. 2), his day and a half visit in the occupied territories and his two-day Jordan visit.

"If a true region can emerge as a result of the peace process, the development can be much greater than what it has been thus far," Premier Rae said. The premier said he was very impressed with the development in Jordan's education and health systems and the strides that had been made in the last thirty years. He said Canada was interested in helping to further develop the health and education sectors in Jordan.

Canada, a country of 28 million people, is largely dependent on the United States market to sell their products and, along with Mexico, is the U.S. partner in NAFTA — the North American Free Trade Agreement. In the past few years Canadian businessmen have been venturing beyond the North American boundaries to find trading partners, most notably Europe and China.

Egypt is one Middle Eastern country in which Canadian hydro industries have helped develop infrastructure.

The peace process
Premier Rae was non-committal on Canada's position-vis-a-vis the concept of Palestinian statehood and said, "Canada has always been careful not to support anything that the parties involved don't."

Hinting that Canada could support a federated status of the still Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, Premier Rae said that Canada's federation of provinces has worked out well.

"I probably should not say this but a people can be recognised as a people or as a country without necessarily being a nation state — the federal solution is a sound one," the premier said.

Intellectuals debate role of politics in human rights

By Sa'eda Khani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab human rights advocates Wednesday debated the dominance of politicians over human rights organisations but agreed to accept this hegemony as a reality.

The debate was sparked by a comment made by Arab Thought Forum Secretary-General Ali Umleil in the first-day of a workshop organised by the International Commission of Jurists and held at the Marriott Hotel.

Dr. Umleil called for an independent Arab human rights movement that is not subjugated to political parties' dominance or influence. He told a group of 25 Arab jurists and human rights activists that there can be no guarantee that politicians or politicians will be committed to independent action without mixing their devotion to their parties with their effort to upgrade the level of human rights in their countries.

"We have succeeded in making this real in the Moroccan organisation for human rights," said Dr. Umleil at the workshop entitled "Towards a Professional, Independent and Effective Arab Human Rights Movement."

"At present, the organisation stipulates the membership of at least 50 per cent of non-party members or (political) leaders," Dr. Umleil said. Dr. Umleil's remarks drew fervent reactions from participants, impatient to air out their comments.

Laila Naffa, a human rights activist, objected to the contention that human rights organisations should be constituted of a majority of independent activists who have no political affiliations. A member of the Jordanian Communist Party herself, Ms. Naffa said that it were parties themselves that give prominence and spearhead action related to human rights issues.



Justice Minister Taher Hikmat Wednesday addresses the opening session of the human rights conference (Petra photo)



"You can't tell partisans to abandon human rights organisations and call on independent organisations to replace them," she protested.

Lawyer Asma Khader agreed in principle to Ms. Naffa's remark but pointed to certain limitations. She said that one of the basic rights in international conventions and agreements is a person's right to belong to any political grouping or party.

"We can't confiscate any individual right on the basis of political affiliation," said Ms. Khader, a member of the administrative committee of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights — Jordan Branch. "But main tasks should be

entrusted to human rights advocates whose political affiliation is of minor influence. We can further stipulate that leaders of political parties or veteran politicians are not in leading positions at these organisations."

In her paper entitled "The Reality of the Arab Human Rights Movement: Challenges of the Present and Outlook for the Future," lawyer Mona Rishmawi, legal officer for Middle East Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, said that Arab human rights are organisations dominated by political parties and that this is a challenge organisations have to face. She said that this structure gener-

Hikmat: Human rights violations in Arab, Islamic countries are on the rise

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Justice Minister Taher Hikmat opened the three-day workshop entitled "Towards a professional, independent and effective Arab human rights movement" by highlighting that human rights violations in Arab and Islamic countries, among Third World Nations, were on the rise.

The minister said that there was a need for this workshop, which was organised by the International Commission of Jurists, to adopt effective, practical and applicable formulas which can contribute towards safeguarding human rights, protect democracy and the rule of the law and also constitute as an important component in the new world society.

The growing human rights violations, added the minister, were bound to threaten human

societies, especially in the Third World.

Referring to Jordan, the minister said the Kingdom acts as an oasis of democracy in the Middle East because of its application and upholding of the rule of law and "because it serves as a beacon for others in the region with respect to human rights."

"Indeed, this meeting is convened in Jordan at a time when this country enjoys stability and prosperity and, above all, democracy which is gradually taking firm hold and making more gains" added the minister.

Noting that Jordan is keen on participating in various regional and international conferences which discuss human rights and the rule of the law, Mr. Hikmat said that His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan have personally taken part in such meetings to highlight Jordan's achieve-

ments. The minister expressed the view that the human rights and the rule of the law movement was constantly responding to new trends at the international level.

This movement, he added, has been constantly attempting to emphasise its independent character by being free of political ideological hegemony and not acting as an arm for any ideology.

"This movement should not serve as a forum confined to the opposition groups in all societies but should serve as an arena for all those who respect human rights and human dignity," he emphasised.

Concluding his address, the minister said that Jordan welcomes the opening on its territory of any office or organisation whose mission serves to enhance the true concept of democracy and human rights.

(combating) Zionism and colonialism.

Ms. Rishmawi concluded that the dominant Arab culture and traditional patriarchal thinking as well as poor economic conditions, make the task lying ahead of Arab organisations for human rights an enormous one.

"If Arab organisations do not start to organise themselves, develop their resources and ways of work, it will be difficult for them to face the enormous challenges in front of them and make it harder to take part in the building of a civil, democratic Arab society where the dignity of the individual is respected."

Yemen, Jordan discuss traffic issues



Major-General Fawwaz Zaben Wednesday meets with Director of Sanaa Traffic Department Lieutenant-General Yahya Zaher (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting director of the Public Security Department (PSD), Major-General Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah, Wednesday received the director of Yemen's Sanaa Traffic Department, Lieutenant-General Yahya Zaher, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Maj.-Gen. Abdullah said Jordan was keen to enhance

bilateral ties with Yemen in security-related fields.

It Col. Zaher was also received by PSD deputy director for traffic affairs Major-General Mu'ayyad Al-Mubaslat.

The two reviewed Jordan's

experiment in planning traffic affairs.

The Yemeni official also visited the Traffic Department and discussed with officials there the prospect of benefiting from Jordanian expertise in traffic-related fields.

Islamic Relief Organisation to increase aid to the poor

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Mohammad Sqour Wednesday announced that the Islamic Relief Organisation (IRO) was joining hands with his ministry in providing assistance to poor families in Jordan.

Speaking after a meeting with Muayad Battiri, director of the IRO Amman office, the minister said the organisation has decided to widen its monthly assistance coverage to benefit 9,000 needy children instead of 4,000.

The IRO will also provide assistance to poor families headed by working women and

who do not receive any assistance from the Ministry's National Aid Fund (NAF) according to the minister.

Subsequently, families receiving aid from the IRO will no longer be receiving aid from the NAF, Dr. Sqour said noting that funds would therefore be saved to be given for others in need.

The NAF provides monthly salaries to families considered living in abject poverty.

Mr. Battiri said that each orphan child would be receiving JD 17 and up to five orphan children in the same family can benefit from the

monthly aid. Noting that the IRO also covers other expenses for the children, Mr. Battiri said that his organisation sponsors needy children's pilgrimage (Omra) to Mecca.

He said the IRO was this year sponsoring the trip and accommodation of 135 children from Jordan.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of common concern and the minister later announced that agreement was reached on coordinating the IRO's humanitarian services with the Ministry of Social Development.

Foreign minister, German deputies discuss peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Peter Kittlemann and Dankward Buwitt, two German federal parliamentarians now on a tour of a number of Arab countries, Wednesday had a meeting here with Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and reviewed with him Middle Eastern affairs.

Mr. Al Hassan was reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, to have outlined to the visitors the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, Jordan's efforts to maintain momentum for progress and the need for the implementation of U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Mr. Kittlemann, who is a leading member of the parliamentary economic committee, had visited Jordan and other parts of the Middle East several times.

Mr. Kittlemann, who came here from Yemen, was scheduled to meet Thursday with Information Minister Jawad Anani, Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz and a number of Jordanian parliament members before travelling to Damascus Friday on the next leg of the tour.

Tunisia, Jordan boost aviation cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The civil aviation authorities in Jordan and Tunisia have concluded an agreement on promoting bilateral cooperation in civil aviation following two days of talks between the two sides in Amman.

A statement Wednesday said that the talks, which led to the signing of the agreement, focused on developing procedures related to civil aviation and air transport which en-

tailed amendments to the present schedule of air routes, developing and encouraging air transport traffic and the exchange of expertise available to either country in technical, maintenance and training fields.

The agreement was signed by Mohammad Al Tayeh Tunisia's director general of the Civil Aviation Department and Mr. Ahmad Jweihir Civil Aviation Authority Director

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisman" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Suha Mash'al at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman on bedouin culture at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

DRAMA

- ★ Drama for children entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Suspicion" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).
- ★ Film in English on surrealist artist Max Ernst, with commentary in Arabic by Mrs. May Mudhaffar, at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).

NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits air force bases

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited several Royal Air Force bases and met with their officers. King Hussein's visits included the Prince Hassan and Muwaffaq Al Sali air bases. His Majesty was accompanied on the visits by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and the Chief of Staff of the Royal Air Force. In meetings with the officers and non-commissioned officers at the bases, King Hussein expressed pride in the level of performance attained by the force.

Prince Hassan leaves for London

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan flew to London Wednesday on a several day working visit to the United Kingdom. He will hold meetings with a number of British officials. His Majesty King Hussein and Royal family members and Royal Court officials as well as senior government officials bade him farewell at the airport.

Masri goes to Syria today

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri will Thursday leave for Damascus to meet with his Syrian counterpart Abdul Qader Qaddoura. Mr. Masri and Mr. Qaddoura will discuss issues pertaining to the Arab Parliamentary Union and Jordanian-Syrian relations.

Algeria wants higher cooperation with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Algerian ambassador to Jordan, Al Hashimi Al Qaddouri, Wednesday called for the implementation of a Jordanian-Algerian cultural programme and the formation of a higher joint committee on coordination between the two countries. Speaking at a meeting with Minister Khaled Al Omari, the ambassador said that despite the adverse circumstances in his country the Algerian ministry of education was determined to go ahead with plans in educational plans. "Already there are seven million Algerian students at schools and the 30 Algerian universities are turning out graduates most of whom work

as teachers," said the ambassador. In reviewing Algerian educational problems, the ambassador stressed that his government was interested in Arabising school and university trust books.

Akaikeh urges more field visits

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Wednesday at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment for directors of the ministry's engineering department around the Kingdom to discuss problems facing these departments. Municipal and Rural Affairs Minister Ahmad Al Akaikeh, who chaired the meeting, stressed the need to improve the performance of these departments through organising proper training programme for their personnel. He also urged the department directors to increase field visits to be able to pinpoint the problems and needs of their areas.

Masri invites Berri for a visit

BEIRUT (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Lebanon, Fakhri Abu Talch, Wednesday met with speaker of the Lebanese house of representatives Nabin Berri and handed him an invitation from his Jordanian counterpart, Taher Al Masri, to visit Jordan. Mr. Berri accepted the invitation and said he would visit the Kingdom after the mid of March.

Youth committee discusses plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Committee for Voluntary Work has discussed its work plans and programmes for 1994 in a meeting which was held Tuesday evening under the chairmanship of Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat. Dr. Oweidat called for crystallising a well-defined concept that would benefit the role of youth in voluntary work to contribute to developing the society and enhancing their sense of belonging. The minister reviewed at the meeting the activities of the higher committee during the past year and thanked all organisations and individuals who participated in these activities. He also proposed exploiting the efforts of the youth recruited by the people's Army and called for including voluntary work in their military training programmes. He pointed that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff has earlier supported this idea and recommended that a representative of the People's Army join the committee.

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Adapting to new ways

NO NATIONAL leader in recent times has come under so much pressure as Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Since the early days of the establishment of his Fatah movement in the mid-1960s, Mr. Arafat has been on the run, a wanted man in many capitals in the Arab World and elsewhere. Yet he survived. During all those years that he spent flying from one capital to the other around the world he learned an important lesson: How to compromise.

He was constantly under Israeli military and political attack and world pressure to scrap his agenda for a liberated Palestine, which he did. But now Mr. Arafat seems to be entering the most trying of all periods of time. Will he wrest from the Israelis the seeds of the aspired-for state of Palestine? Will he, while doing so, not trespass on the domains of other Arab countries? And, most of all, will he manage to lead the Palestinian people into a pluralistic, democratic state that respects human rights and the rights of women?

Of these three questions, the last is currently of great significance for his people especially under occupation, the people who most yearn for freedom and human rights. Because if Arafat and his men in the PLO fail to prove to their people, through their actions as well as their words, that they will not have for so many years been fighting to replace a brutal Israeli occupation by an insensitive and a brutal Palestinian regime, the Palestinians will all too easily lose heart from this peace-making process.

It might not be an easy matter for Arafat, long the undisputed leader of a resistance organisation to change his ways and methods. But he cannot continue to alienate leaders within his own circle and those who have won people's trust in the West Bank and Gaza.

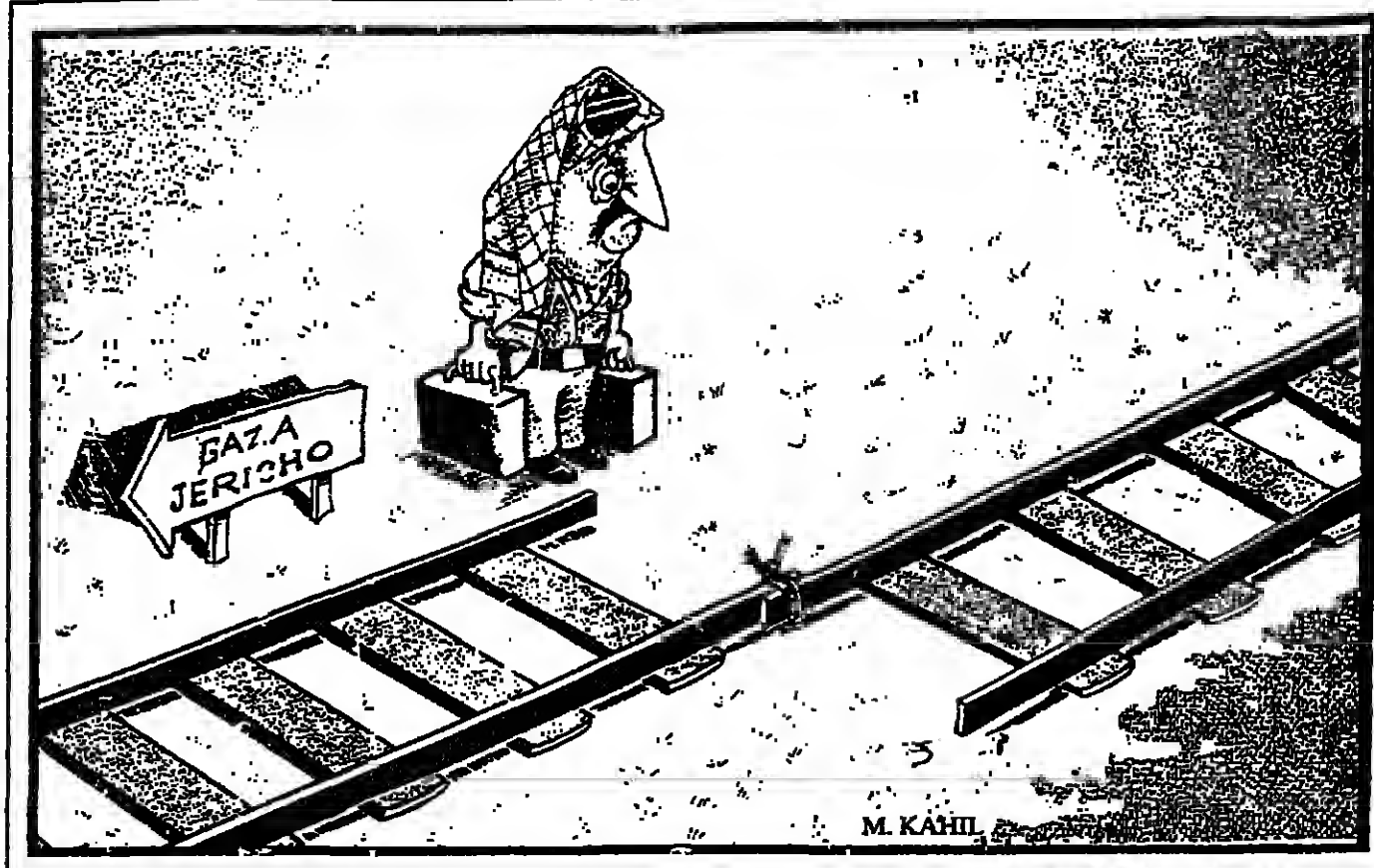
One encouraging sign has been Arafat's acceptance to receive the respected and highly esteemed Haidar Abdul Shafi at the head of a delegation that is demanding reforms of the "old man's" undemocratic practices. Another encouraging news is to see people like Hanan Ashrawi resigning from politics to devote herself to the defence of human and women's rights.

Given all these signs Chairman Arafat cannot but metamorphose himself into a truly democratic man as he did when he switched from the gun to the olive branch.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily questioned the wisdom behind importing an army of non-Jordanian workers and giving them work in Jordan which is plagued by unemployment. Nazih Qousous said that thousands of carpenters, blacksmiths and other craftsmen from different Arab countries are employed in Jordan at a time when our vocational schools turn out thousands of them every year. The writer said that the country has been flooded by people coming from other countries, staying on in the Kingdom, working or looking for job, and taking up opportunities that should go to Jordanians. These questions are addressed to the Labour Ministry which has the power to issue permits to the guest workers and has the duty to control the labour market in Jordan, said the writer. Unfortunately, there is no control over the local labour market and the problem of unemployment remains without a solution, he added. Non-Jordanian workers could easily commit a murder or any other crime and in a matter of hours leave the country, leaving the Jordanian society to deal with the mess. We are demanding from the Labour Ministry, concluded the writer, that foreign workers have clearance from the Public Security and other concerned parties before being allowed to leave the country.

THE GREAT number of industrial projects being set up these days give a clear indication that the Jordanian investment climate is quite encouraging for investors, said a columnist in Al Dustour newspaper. In view of the situation, said Mohammed Daoud, there is need to take into account the fact that the presence of a great number of similar industries is bound to limit their ability in marketing and therefore there is need to set up new industries of a different nature, whose products are of demand here and abroad. Experiments had shown that unless the quality of products is good and competing, in Jordan or abroad they have no chance of selling, said the writer. He said that despite the fact that Jordan adopts the free market system, there comes a time when the government should interfere. The government should direct and guide investments and give advice to investors about the best areas to set up the business or ideas about the market situation, he added. The writer called on the government to encourage small businesses working in the same field to merge and improve their quality as this has proved very effective in world markets.



The PLO and the current challenges — the need to restructure

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

EVER since the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord on September 13, which I still believe to be a breakthrough, the news we have been hearing regarding Palestinian political conduct, particularly that of the PLO, is more discouraging than encouraging. Frustration with the so-called PLO's political "style," specifically Yasser Arafat's, has grown to encompass the PLO's negotiating tactics with Israel, its relationship with fellow Arab participants in the peace process (especially Jordan), and, most disturbingly, its relation to its own self.

We realise, of course, that, as outsiders to the PLO's decision-making process, our critique of its conduct or style is, unavoidably, severely limited by what we know and what we don't. And I am afraid that, as outsiders, we know very little. One has to be inside Arafat's close circle to know what exactly is happening, and why. Moreover, much of politics is, generally speaking, schemed and executed behind closed doors. There is always a great deal of secret negotiating, compromising, and bargaining. Most of us poor people are left to guess or conjecture on the basis of what we merely hear or see, which often does not amount to much. This is particularly true with respect to contemporary Middle Eastern diplomacy as a whole.

The quarrel with the PLO's political style begins soon upon the announcement of the "disruptive" Oslo deal, a deal which (while opening up a real channel for the settlement of the Palestine problem) seems to have opened also a can of worms. To many, the "ill-timed" agreement has, though unintentionally, dealt a severe blow to a well-coordinated, orderly Arab-Israeli peace process conducted under the auspices of two sympathetic and actively involved superpowers, has considerably slowed down (perhaps even obstructed) the momentum of peace-making on most of the other tracks, has almost put an end to Arab consensus over peace with Israel, and has (funny enough) taken

the Palestinian peace delegation by total surprise and eventually turned it against its own leadership. Yes, what counts is the achievement of results. Fine, but could not the agreement have been worked out in a more tactful and organised manner? There are many who still argue that the accord is an example of the PLO's hastiness and recklessness.

Even though it has calmed down noticeably in the weeks after Oslo, the controversy over the PLO's unsatisfactory handling of Palestinian affairs has escalated anew. The most salient evidence comes from within the Palestinian house itself. Forget the Palestinian rejectionists who appear to be satisfied with nothing and whose motives are almost always dubious. There are, first, members of the Palestinian peace delegation, most of whom (we ought to remember) were chosen with the knowledge and blessing of the PLO and most of whom are now voicing their objection to the PLO's autocratic method of leadership. As a matter of fact, the delegation head, Haydar Abdul Shafi, is in Tunis at this very moment, along with a significant number of Palestinians, expressing grave reservations regarding the said matter. At the beginning, many said Abdul Shafi was simply a "cranky" old man. What about him now? What about the tens of Palestinians who are with him in Tunis at this point? And what about Hanan Ashrawi's resignation?

Furthermore, there is also the opinion of many highly-esteemed Palestinian scholars, most of whom are adequately familiar with the PLO's internal politics and political structure. Edward Said and Hisham Sharabi, to cite only two examples, have repeatedly and openly warned against the course the PLO is presently taking. Their criticism is extremely difficult to overlook since, unlike some other critics, they calculate and weigh well their views before they air them.

Moreover, there are His

Majesty King Hussein's significant remarks in the speech he delivered a few days ago. No matter how one looks at the King's words, they all point in one direction: Frustration over the PLO's unwillingness or inability to work closely with Jordan, a goal which most sensible Jordanians and Palestinians wish to see fulfilled sooner than later.

Obviously, there is no smoke without fire. Something is seriously wrong with the PLO's approach, with regard to both its internal and external politics. The causes are varied. The first is the fragmentation within the very structure of the PLO itself. The dissatisfaction, neutralisation, or resignation of a number of the PLO's central committee members has left a negative impact on the PLO's overall performance. There is a great deal of truth in the opinion of those who feel that the PLO has become a "ghost" entity, many of its active members having either died, resigned, vanished, or simply chosen to be silent. The second, an automatic outcome of the first, has to do with the personalisation, individualisation of the PLO. To many people, the dispute with the PLO is essentially a dispute with Chairman Arafat himself. Many including those who recognise his many virtues and accomplishments, feel uneasy about Arafat's monopolisation of power. The third is related to the nature of the PLO itself. Originally, and fundamentally, the PLO is a revolutionary organisation. Nowadays, it is entrusted with the responsibilities of a full-fledged state. The transition it must go through is not easy.

In my opinion, the state of disorder and confusion the PLO is experiencing is understandable under the circumstances. Too many things have happened too quickly. A couple of years ago, peace was at best a dream and an ideal; now it has become a reality. A few months ago, the PLO (to Israel and the U.S.) was a "terrorist" organisation; now it is a legitimate political body. Less than a year ago, the PLO took care mainly of

itself; now it has to think about the people it is supposed to represent. Old ways die hard. Inevitably, the PLO had a lot to cope with, and has to make substantial changes.

It needs to do two things, if it is to gain the respect and support of its own people, its Arab brothers, and the international community. First, it needs to restructure itself entirely. It ought to stop thinking of itself as an "organisation" and start behaving like a "state" or a "mini-state." As such, it has also to depersonalise, de-individualise, diversify, and expand itself to be able to embrace Palestinians of all (or nearly all) political aspirations, views, and creeds. Such diversification will enrich and strengthen the PLO leadership. As a friend of mine is fond of saying, "Three are smarter than one, five than three, and ten than five." More significantly, the PLO has to begin building democratic institutions, before it even moves to Egypt, undetected, could send arms and men into the Gaza Strip, surrounded as it is by Israeli-controlled land and sea, or Jordan do

Secondly, and simultaneously, the PLO must work hard in hand and coordinate closely with Jordan. The relationship between the two peoples (the Jordanian and the Palestinian) is closer and firmer than that linking the Palestinians with any other Arab country. The two peoples have lived for so long together, shared so much, and mixed so thoroughly that it is next to impossible to ignore the bonds which tie them together. In addition, the Jordanian leadership has been wholeheartedly enthusiastic and supportive of joint Jordanian-Palestinian action. Needless to say, the two peoples' mutual goals and interests are remarkably intertwined.

The challenges facing the PLO are formidable, but I hope that its determination to do what is best for the people on both sides of the river is more formidable.

In peace, there will be no more threats to Israel

By G. H. Jansen

IN THE interminable and unsuccessful negotiations going on between the Israelis and the Arabs on the implementation of the Oslo accord, the Israelis invariably produce what they think is their trump card: a certain concession to the Palestinians that is unacceptable to them because it would threaten "Israel's security." And the mere mention of that sacred mantra, "Israel's security" is enough to shut off further debate.

And yet, threats to "Israel's security" are utterly improbable because Israel is the most secure state in the area. Not only is it in military occupation of territory belonging to three of its Arab neighbours, it is also heavily armed — thanks to the generosity of the U.S. — and it is, as it sometimes accurately boasts, militarily strong enough to defeat all its neighbours, indeed all the Arab states put together.

How then could Israel's minimal concessions to the PLO, Syria and Lebanon threaten the security of Israel? The answer is they cannot because Israel is using the emotionally-sensitive issue of a threat to its security which works with glib westerners, still sensitive on the issue of the holocaust, to support its case for making only minimal concessions or none at all.

That the yarn about the threat to Israel's security cannot be taken seriously becomes obvious from any so-called consideration of the geo-military possibilities. Could even the most timid, or most devious, Israeli really argue that Egypt, undetected, could send arms and men into the Gaza Strip, surrounded as it is by Israeli-controlled land and sea, or Jordan do

task of imposing this apartheid. (Incidentally, Israel and South Africa, two racist states, have always had strong, cordial relations and not only because there is a large and prosperous Jewish community in South Africa, but because they are similarly circumstanced — racist states surrounded by hostile enemies).

How else is Israel to deal with improbable threats to its security as a state or the more real threats to its individual citizens? The answer is so blindingly obvious that it is overlooked by all except a few specially gifted Israelis. The answer is this: Israel has to make a just and lasting peace with the Arab peoples. The Israelis who see this, a clearly defined group which is increasing in numbers, are those gifted with the qualities of sensitive humanism and democratic equality; those who, in other words, set aside unreal Jewish fears and all-too-real racial arrogance, based, for the time being, on Israel's military strength and military prowess — though this latter quality is much less than claimed.

But such a change would amount to nothing less than a revolution in Israeli thinking and feeling because it would run counter to the basic concept of Zionism on which the Jewish state is based: that the land of Palestine "belongs" to the Jews, and to the Jews alone, because it was "promised" to them by the God, Yahweh, of the Jewish tribe of Israel. Which is why Zionist Jews reject Arab offers to share "the land", in particular Jerusalem.

The split between humanist Jews and Zionist Israelis is apparent in Yitzhak Rabin's

"Israel has to make a just and lasting peace with the Arab governments and with the Arab peoples. The Israelis who see this, a clearly defined group which is increasing in numbers, are those gifted with the qualities of sensitive humanism and democratic equality: those who, in other words, set aside unreal Jewish fears and all-too-real racial arrogance based, for the time being, on Israel's military strength and military prowess — though this latter quality is much less than claimed."

the same, undetected, in the 50 square kilometres of the Jericho enclave from where these forces would eventually break out to threaten, respectively, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. That would be unscientific fiction.

But there is some factual basis for Israeli fears not for "Israel's security" but for "Israel's security," a possible threat, that is to say, not to the Jewish state but to its individual Jewish citizens whom the Palestinians have shown themselves capable of shooting, stabbing, axing and blowing up in broad daylight and in busy, inhabited areas of towns and cities.

There are only two certain ways of countering this threat to individual Israelis: either all Palestinians must be "transferred" out of Israel and the occupied territories or, if that were not possible, confine the Palestinians to certain areas, ghettos, where no Jews would be permitted. Or, more realistically, to certain areas, ghettos, where no Palestinian would be allowed.

Israel has already made certain tentative, temporary, experimental moves in this direction when, for instance, it cut off all traffic between the occupied territories and "Israel proper" or when it placed the entire Gaza Strip under curfew for days, even weeks, at a time, or when it did not allow young Palestinian males to enter the Jerusalem area.

Such draconian measures produce results: they do reduce Jewish deaths, but they are conspicuous and attract criticism from human rights groups, like Amnesty International. They also impose a strain on the army and the police who would have the

cabinet with the Meretz Party representing the humanists and the Labour Party the Zionists. But not all the Labour party representatives which include younger politicians like Haim Ramon, the health minister, and Yossi Beilin, the deputy foreign minister.

Unfortunately, the really powerful members of the cabinet, the prime minister and defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, and the foreign minister, Shimon Peres, are old fashioned Zionists, though from time to time Mr. Peres lapses into humanism. Hence, apart from the hard-line Zionists in the opposition parties — who are, unfortunately, just short of having a parliamentary majority — it is the tough old soldier Rabin who is the chief obstacle to a just and lasting peace between Jews and Palestinians.

It must be clarified and emphasised that Mr. Rabin, like the majority of Israelis, is a non-observant Jew who; while he would not accept the religious underpinnings of the Zionist myth, he accepts the myth of exclusive Jewish ownership of the Holy Land.

Which is why there is a continuing ambiguity in Mr. Rabin's policy towards the Arabs: he would yield territory to the Palestinians most grudgingly but at the same time he does not approve of Jewish settlements. His Israeli patriotism clearly conflicts with Zionist beliefs because he would seem to see that it is Zionist beliefs that bring threats to Israel's security. There is some faint hope for him and Israel that it is not impossible that his humanism could prevail in which case there would be no more threats to "Israel's security."

First world dreams, Third World problem

By John Rice
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico hoped to celebrate the New Year with a big step towards first world status through free trade with the United States and Canada. It was shocked instead by an eruption of Third World violence.

The Indian peasant rebellion in the southern state of Chiapas broke out on New Year's day, the same day the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect.

NAFTA is part of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's vow to lift this country of 86 million into the "first world" of developed nations. But the rebellion was born from problems that NAFTA will solve slowly, or might even make worse: rural poverty, violent disputes for scarce land, threats to native Indian cultures and a sense of political powerlessness.

Those problems burn deeply in Chiapas. Its rugged, forested mountains hold many iso-

lated Mayan Indian communities with few roads, schools or clinics. Malnutrition and infant mortality rates are among the highest in Mexico.

The distance between Chiapas and the skyscrapers, McDonalds and bustling shopping malls of Mexico City is measured in more than kilometres.

The communities are often distinct cultures, with their own language and traditions. Many in Chiapas speak little, if any, Spanish.

NAFTA's goal of making Mexico's countryside more productive implies that many small, inefficient producers will have to leave the land and move elsewhere to take advantage of better jobs.

Rebels who took the Chiapas market centre of San Cristobal de Las Casas a few hours after NAFTA took effect scrawled anti-NAFTA slogans on the adobe walls of the 16th century city, one of the oldest in Mexico.

NAFTA could mean the end for some Indian cultures already driven into a last re-

fuge in the remote mountains. Coffee and corn prices on which many in Chiapas depend are low and NAFTA will pull corn prices even lower. When American corn hits the Mexican market duty-free, it will drive down the price of locally grown corn.

Meanwhile, government restrictions on woodcutting have made cheap fuel illegal for many. In 1991, Indians in the state took hostage several state police who tried to extort bribes from woodcutters.

Some rural coffee plantations pay less than \$2 a day — about half the legal minimum wage — according to local priests.

Clashes between the various Mayan ethnic groups and with clashes between the various Mayan ethnic groups and with politically powerful ranchers seeking more land for their cattle are common and often bloody. A quarter of Mexico's officially recognised land disputes are in Chiapas, its southernmost state.

Religion and culture, too, are sources of conflict. The

hills ringing San Cristobal de Las Casas, the most important city seized Saturday, hold 15,000 Evangelical Christians and Roman Catholics who were expelled from nearby Chamula by townspeople trying to protect their own Mayan religious traditions.

States such as Michoacan and Oaxaca also have dire poverty and threatened Indian communities. But seasonal emigration to the United States has helped provide an economic safety valve, providing money that helps the towns survive. There is little migration from Chiapas.

Violence is endemic throughout Mexico, but it has not spilled over into a major regional rebellion since a revolt by disgruntled Catholic militants in the late 1920s. Violence tends to rise and fall at the local level, rarely posing a unified national threat.

On the day that revolt broke out in the south, members of mainstream political parties were blocking or had seized 11 city halls in the state of Mexico to protest alleged vote fraud.

Reformists vs old guard — JWA faces 'cultural anxiety'

By Mohammad Masharqa

With the phrase "cultural anxiety" Jordanian novelist Fu'nes Al Razzaz summarised the crisis now facing the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) at the political, cultural and ideological levels.

The crisis was a natural outcome of the deep changes that influenced the principles on which contemporary Arab cultural trends are based.

A dialogue among leading Arab thinkers and writers over the past few years has not risen to the level of the changes but rather manifested an expression of an "anxiety situation," chaos and political parties dismemberment which has become typical of the nature of artisan activities in Jordan.

It was natural in this situation that politically-biased divisions and anxieties should be reflected in all intellectuals, not because these influences are politically motivated and not surfacing as a result of and under the effect of social developments or activities.

Differences of views are now plaguing the JWA and giving the ground for the February elections in the various JWA sectors.

Deep differences of views are emerging because the young writers are demanding that there be major changes that focus attention on the need to protect writers' interests, dignity and the cultural movement.

The young writers group totals 330 in number, making up one third of JWA members.

For his part, Mr. Razzaz has displayed enthusiasm about the young writers programme of reform. In his view, the JWA's role has changed under the influence of the on-going changes in Jordan and the formation of

political parties under the era of democracy.

He says that it would be a blunder to keep the JWA serving as a front displaying the political parties' struggle with the authorities in the country and warns that Jordan is at the threshold of enormous challenges.

"The JWA should arm itself for the coming stage by adopting a well prepared programme that focuses attention on creating cultural works to serve in the post cold war era."

He called for young writers to carry out their

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

ambitious programme which aims at stimulating JWA's activities.

"At the same time we demand pluralism in creative work and in the creation of cultural schools rather than wasting writers' time and effort in squabbles over fickle political stands."

Mahmoud Al Imleh, president of the Al Watan Club in Ruseifeh town asks: "Why should there be political tutelage within the JWA over creativity and why can't a revolutionary group, which is very enthusiastic to fight the idea of cultural and political normalisation of relations with Israel, form its own political party?"

Of course the two sides involved in the squabble within the JWA are keen on concealing their political orientations by pretending that their differences are only professional and cultural.

But the truth is that the crux of these differences are related to the Arab stand vis-a-vis the political settlement on the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli

tracks. This view is supported by Mazen Saadeh, novelist from the young group of writers.

Saadeh says that the JWA board has been elected on the basis of the previous political set-up.

This trend, according to Saadeh, resulted in the JWA's isolation and the shrinking of its members.

The JWA board, which is chaired by Fakhri Ka'war, has been involved in non-cultural issues — not cultural and not creative in nature — in the past years, according to poet Basel Rafaiqa, Al Ra'i Arabic daily's cultural editor.

But there are other causes for this divergence of views among JWA members according to novelist Jamal Naji who is now tipped to become JWA president.

There are two concepts which affect this crisis within JWA involving two groups, one trying to maintain the same methods and the other attempts to introduce changes in methods and approach in the light of cultural and political changes, according to Naji.

Naji says that it has become necessary for the "political expression" to upgrade itself into a "creative expression."

The past stage witnessed a transformation within the JWA into what resembles a political party, as it is now issuing political statements and slogans without coming up with mechanisms or action plans to promote culture, he adds.

Is there a real struggle going on within the JWA? Perhaps, this is the case. The old guards who traditionally assumed the leadership since the association's foundation in the mid-seventies, shouldered huge burdens and faced imprisonment. They were banned from writing after defending the association's right for existence

following the government's ban of the JWA in 1986.

The old guards also defended freedom and democracy and respect for human rights. These sacrifices and this role enabled the old guards to remain at the helm all these years. But the old guard has also benefited from all that comes with the leadership, like invitations to attend conferences abroad.

In the last few years there has been a slackness in admitting new members and the JWA imposed a rule that only those who had served as association members for two years will be allowed to run for elections or to assume the presidency. All this has deprived the new generation of writers of a chance to assume the presidency.

Judge Hashem Gharaibeh, who is also nominating himself for the JWA presidency, said "the JWA board should be set up on the basis of creative trends which would bring in real change and cultural pluralism."

According to Razzaz the revolutionaries are still a minority and could lose their battle in the first round, because ending the old and traditional system is not an easy matter in a country like Jordan.

This is the general view of the situation inside the JWA and the result of the crisis that has exploded, somewhat too early.

But one has to admit that the struggle within the JWA has been positive in nature, and that its cultural and political trends are not personal perhaps. Razzaz was right in predicting a loss for the revolutionaries and the reformists.

Yet, the struggle has indeed opened a new door to question the real role of the Jordanian writers, and has brought back the spirit that prevailed in the old JWA.

The cultural movement in Irbid

By Mohammad Daoud Tahboub

It's surprising how small the number of Ammanites who have ever been to Irbid or have known about it, though its geographical and topographical location as well as its aesthetic qualities make it perhaps the most beautiful city in Jordan.

With a vast plain stretching to the east and south and with an uninterrupted chain of little hills in the north and west it looks more like a resort than a city. Each year at the advent of spring Irbid puts on a jubilant attire and looks like a bride wearing a multi-coloured gown, hence the nomenclature "the bride of the north."

Its winter is as mild as its summer which makes it the ideal place for a thoughtful and quiet life and a suitable place for literature and poetry to flourish. That's why many authors and poets spring from its soil. In this connection Jordanians admire and deeply remember the great poet Mustafa Wahbi Al Tall, considered by many as a great laureate.

Though cultural activity in the city is relatively new it is rich compared to other areas in the Kingdom. A new generation of city writers have put their mark on the Jordanian literature scene in recent years and acquired, in fame and respect within cultural circles in the country.

Any essay on cultural activity will be incomplete if it were void of due presentation of the persons who gave and are still giving much of their time, thought and effort to make cultural movement in the city a reality.

Mahmoud Issa, a pharmacist and head of Writers' association branch in Irbid willingly introduced me to important poets and authors. He is now working on a novel which deals with the social fabric in a cynical manner.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb, a gynaecologist, is a poet who carefully and instinctively chooses his vocabulary and expressions and who has the ability to write poems in both old and new forms (rhyme and free or as some describe them as the horizontal and vertical forms). He is also a well-known critic of poetry. Al Khateeb published his first book collection of poems in 1964 under the title "Chant Me My Tomorrow" followed by "Lanterns for an Extinguished Day" in 1985. In 1986 he published "Winds Barn," in 1987 "Izzidin Al Qassam" and in 1989 "I Take Refuge in Stone" then in 1990 "Face to Face" from which I chose the following lines:

If you carry youth's dream to age of old,
by then, you recognise width and length of road.



Edward Haddad

Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb

If grey hair line your head with its days and seasons,
but your eyes wouldn't care to behold.
If all hardships bow before your feet as told,
There, then, is a new meaning for heroism.

"My poetic experience now far surpasses the past," he says adding that poetry is the fruit of life experience and as such gets finer and ripens with the passage of time. "This is what actually is happening with me."

Another poet, Edward Haddad has the gift of dressing his long poems, though not easy to grasp, with colourful imagination in a hazy atmosphere. Reading through Haddad's work, one feels that he moves stealthily from one idea to another motivating his reader to follow his unseen dream to the end. Haddad published some of his poems in a book titled "Flight on a Low Altitude" and sporadically furnishes some of Jordanian Arabic newspapers and magazines with his poems. The following extracts from his poem "Mercenaries and Lovers" may shed some light on his style:

Oh... how pretty you are!
How often I mingle you with coffee,
In a raining morn.



Mahmoud Issa



Suleiman Al Azrai

And reside in you with shaken anxiety,
As a branch long torn,
I leave my dried leaves on your breast,
Evading a cry... yet I cry

Blessed are the eyes of sea,
That overflow me
Blessed are the eyes of jungle and rain, that cleanse me.
Blessed are the eyes of sea,
that drown me deep where I drop my anchor... but then,
there they leave.

While literature in the north and indeed elsewhere in the country is directed to grown-ups and little is dedicated to children, Hassan Naji took the hard path of writing plays in poetical form for children. Many of his plays have been acted on theatres here in Irbid and in other Arab cities and got popular recognition and some awards.

"It pleases me so much to address children's minds and hearts. Yet this endeavour needs official encouragement. After all I alone cannot afford, from the material point of view, to publish my works although the children's library lacks this line of literature in Jordan," he said.

On a larger scale, novels and short stories found fertile soil in Irbid. Sulaiman Al Azrai and Hashem Gharaibeh are among the pioneers in this field.

Al Azrai is also a sound critic of literature and his books "Studies on Jordanian Story and Novel" and "Studies of Modern Jordanian Poetry" are vivid examples of his cultural background.



Ismail Abul Bandora



Hussein Naji

Azrai is a fine, short story writer. A fine example is his "Al Babour" or the Burner named after the first story in the this group. It is a good attempt in revealing inner struggle between human material needs and the incessant yearning for knowledge among the new generation.

A penniless country boy is anxious to read the works of the renowned novelist Najeeb Mahfouz. Unable to buy his collection he decides to steal the only burner from the house to bargain it with the owner of a bookstore for the novelist collection.

Hashem Gharaibeh is well-known within the cultural movement in Irbid for his novels and activity in the Writers Association. He published several good works that acquired publicity and recognition.

Needless to say that a very important tributary to any culture is the transfer of the accumulated knowledge of other nations. This can be done by two ways: by learning other tongues which can be achieved mostly on an individual basis; and by translation of literary works, a hard yet noble task.

Ismail Abul Bandora is one such self-inductive translator who is keen to bring to Arab readers the fruits of other nations' minds. In 1982 he published his first translation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez' book "Eyes of the Blue Dog" and in 1985 he completed a collection of Yugoslav literary works that was published in Al Mahd literary magazine.

In 1991 Abul Bandora translated "Yugoslav stories", a collection of eight stories written by two famous Bosnian writers. The collection includes a fine introduction to Yugoslav literature. Abul Bandora is now working on Meva Salimovich's novel "The Castle."

Irbid's men of letters have their own branch of the Writers Association established in 1982. With self-financing and with the help of local establishments they were able to found a branch for the Association in downtown Irbid. It can be seen from the schedule of activities the bulk of effort exerted by the management of the branch body over the years, especially over the last three years.

The general sentiment among members of the cultural circle in the north amounts to resentment resulting from what they see as Amman's negligence of their creativity and activity. They think that both the media and concerned cultural departments focus, their attention on Amman literary figures and pay little attention to other famous figures elsewhere.

Mohammad Daoud Tahboub is a political and literary researcher and translator based in Irbid. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Chocolate museum dream comes true

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuter

COLOGNE, Germany — A German entrepreneur's dream of a museum dedicated to his consuming passion has come true in this Rhineland city.

Hans Imhoff, owner of one of Germany's largest confectioners Stollwerck, has spent a fortune on a ship-shaped building overlooking the Rhine that is devoted to chocolate.

Opened in October, the museum — which advertises itself as the only such exhibition in the world — is attracting tens of thousands of visitors.

"I have long dreamt of a museum recording the history of chocolate," says Imhoff, a chubby man with a cherubic face who admits to indulging his passion for chocolate every day.

"Now my dream has become reality." "Everybody has happy childhood memories related to chocolate," he told Reuters. "But not many people know what chocolate is, where it comes from and how it is produced."

Like the hero of British author Roald Dahl's famous children's book Charlie And The Chocolate Factory, Imhoff went to explore a chocolate factory as a wide-eyed child, attracted by the rich, heavy smell of melting chocolate.

In adulthood, he put his sweet tooth to use in business, setting up a small chocolate-making firm. In 1971, he bought Stollwerck, a bankrupt chocolate maker once honoured by Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler as a "National Socialist model company."

Some of the profits of the company Imhoff rescued have gone into the museum. Part of the exhibition is housed in a modern building connected to a renovated 19th century customs office holding the rest.

It may lack some of the magic that Charlie discovered in Willy Wonka's fictional chocolate factory, such as brown rivers of chocolate, squirrels cracking nuts for chocolate bars or dwarves singing songs as they make candies.

But it does have a golden chocolate fountain where visitors can dip a biscuit and savour the heavenly taste of fresh warm chocolate.

"I dipped my finger into the chocolate fountain. It was delicious," said Elmar Busch, a surgeon from Cologne.

A hothouse room contains a small tropical forest, where real cocoa trees grow in the shade of palm trees

and tiny white orchid-like cocoa flowers bloom.

The ground floor of the museum contains a modern factory where cocoa beans harvested and fermented in banana leaves in Africa or Latin America are turned into chocolate bars.

Roasted and ground, they are mixed with sugar and milk and cast into chocolate Santas for sale at Christmas, teddy bears and a host of other shapes, as well as fine pralines for older chocoholics.

Cocoa, first cultivated by the Mayans in Mexico more than 2000 years ago, was introduced to Europe by Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes in the 16th century.

Cortes was treated to a cup of whipped hot chocolate by Aztec ruler Montezuma II in 1519. He was stunned by the sight of 2,500 tonnes of cocoa beans at the state treasury.

Yet until the 18th century, cocoa remained unknown to most Europeans outside the Spanish nobility, for whom it symbolised the cultivated pursuit of leisure.

Industrialisation changed that, bringing prices down and gradually turning chocolate into a mass-market product.

The first floor of the museum commemorates chocolate's origins as a drink. Silver and China goblets and cups used at the Spanish and German courts in the 18th century are displayed alongside archaeological treasures from Mexico.

Unlike teaspoons, chocolate pots often had holes in the lid for sucking whisks into the beverage. Chocolate needed constant stirring in those days as it contained much more fat than modern varieties.

The second floor of the museum is dedicated to the rise, fall and resurrection of the Stollwerck Chocolate Company.

There is a colourful collection of toys and vending machines for sweets dating from as far back as last century.

Unlike the standard box-shaped vending machines of today, early machines came in imaginative shapes such as an elephant, an African boy, a palace or an elaborate grandfather clock, some with moving parts.

Among the toys Stollwerck offered to its customers at the turn of the century is a fascinating mini-graphophone for playing chocolate "records."

The customers apparently gave in to temptation a long time ago. None of the edible "records" survive.

Injecting glucose marker improves X-rays

CHICAGO (R) — To more accurately detect the spread of cancer, radiologists are injecting patients with a substance containing glucose and a slightly radioactive marker before the X-ray, a recent report said.

Cancer cells, which tend to grow and divide more rapidly than normal cells, will take up more glucose, thus marking diseased areas on an X-ray, said Michael Hill, a radiologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville.

The radioactive material would decay quickly and pose no risk to patients, Dr. Hill said in a report presented to the Radiological Society of North America.

The technique is useful for assessing how fast a cancer

is growing. If the cancer has metastasized, chemotherapy rather than surgery may be the proper treatment, Dr. Hill said.

After injection with the substance, patients undergo whole body positron emission tomography (PET

Scan), which costs about 1,800 per patient. There are only 78 centres with PET Scans in the United States and Canada.

Use of the technique on 65 cancer patients found important new information in 30 per cent of the cases, Dr.

Hill said.

Surgical biopsies where tissue is removed and analysed remains the standard technique to diagnose cancer, but the PET Scan is non-invasive and can better detect the disease's spread, researchers said.

Professional amateurs

By Jean-Claude Elias

In the world of personal computers (PC), a noticeable phenomenon has marked the beginning of the nineties. Users worldwide have ended their quest for more powerful, faster, feature-laden machines and turned to learning how to better use software. Hence the remarkable expansion of the training sector in private companies, government institutions, schools, major organisations and the attention it has received.

Once the question of selecting and acquiring satisfactory hardware was solved, PC users realised that the priority should be given to the programmes, and that they had to focus on understanding computers and software rather than being obsessed with megabytes and megahertz.

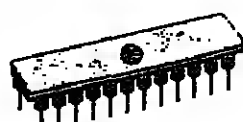
Computer "awareness" became, and is still, the trend. Whether you are a teenager or in your seventies, a plumber or a corporate executive, you had to know about computers. Even if only to take an active part in social conversations. Owning a PC did not even matter.

Things however went overboard. What started as a justified move to vulgarise the topic and educate the public ended up creating an unhealthy, unclear situation. Many neophytes, having read a PC magazine or two and having attended a summer training course, thought they have become data processing consultants.

If a little on-hand experience combined with some reading can certainly help people improve their computer knowledge and skills, it won't make them experts overnight. It is one thing to use a word processor, it is another to set up and control a local network of PCs or a large relational data base.

To be fair, one must not put all the blame on the users. Specialists who give training have their own share of responsibility. To attract the users, they tend to

chip talk



promise more than they can deliver. More that can possibly be delivered anyway. How can anyone expect to replace four or five years of systematic academic studies with a few training courses?

In some stage of the computer training, it should be made very clear to the operators that computer awareness is one thing and true expertise in informatics is another. Individuals who are self-taught or attending private courses have to know where the difference.

The deceptive factor is the relatively low cost and small size of modern PCs. They can easily make you believe that everything is simple, inexpensive and that, whatever you are planning to do with the machine, you will never need the help of an expert.

Think of it this way: You can take an Aspirin without your doctor's advice or approval, but would you decide to have open heart surgery on your own? Let alone perform it yourself!

Learning more about PCs is not only recommended, but has become essential for communicating with your peers in a modern world. One can push the awareness and knowledge as far as possible. When in doubt however, consulting a specialist becomes an absolute must.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TIME FOR RIB-TICKLING READING

CREAM-PUFFS

A CREAM-PUFF is a weak and ineffective person especially a man.)

- ★ He never has to worry about his station in life. Everyone is always telling him where to get off.
- ★ When a fight starts, he always does his best-100 yards in 10 seconds.
- ★ At the first sign of trouble, he thinks with his legs.
- ★ If he goes into an auto showroom just to use the phone, he buys a new car because he hasn't the nerve to walk out without buying something.
- ★ When he goes to a dentist, he needs an anesthetic just to sit in the waiting room.
- ★ You can break him easier than a biscuit.
- ★ When faced with danger and threatening disaster, he sets his teeth, assesses the situation in the twinkling of an eye and then runs faster than a jack rabbit who hears the howl of a wolf.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Common expressions

- Go about your business. *Ibta'id min hona.*
- I've done it for your avail. *Fa'alt haza limas'lahatik.*
- I value honour above life. *Al sharaf indi aghla mimil-hayat.*
- He empowered me to act in his name. *Kallafani anna anoob anho.*
- I'm amiss today. *Ana muta'akkiril-mizaj bazal-youn.*
- Don't set my back up. *La togdiboni.*
- I appeal to God against evil. *A'oozo billahi minash-shaitanir-rajcem.*
- Away, you hypocrite. *Okh'roj min bona ayyohal-monafiq.*
- You should not appear against your relations. *Yajib ann la to'aadi akaribak.*
- They are the apple of my eye. *Innahom a'azz an-nass alayya.*

HUMOUR

- Abbas married an ugly woman. Whenever he set eyes on her, he felt very depressed and looked upon her as if she were a man.
- One day the wife looked out of the window and saw a beautiful girl. She called her husband and said: "Hurry up and have a look at that girl."
- He gazed at the passing girl deploring and cursing his bad luck, and said: "Dearest... I've a good idea. I suggest we both marry her."

- POLICE OFFICER: "Why didn't you move your car when the sergeant commanded you to do so?"
- MAN: "Because my wife asked me to wait for her in this particular place. Whose order do you think I should obey?"

- Father summoned his daughter and said to her: "Our young neighbour has visited me in my office to ask for your hand. I gave him my word. Is this all right?"
- DAUGHTER: "But how can I leave my mother alive?"
- FATHER: "You can take her with you!"

- At stamping the first kiss on his bride's lips, he said to her: "Am I the first man in your life, darling?"
- "Yes, my love," she answered.
- "Did you like my kiss?"
- "It's really the most delicious kiss I've ever tasted."

HOROSCOPIC CHART

WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

Jan. 21 to Feb. 19

People born during this period have a strong sense of duty. They have a kindly disposition and are inclined to be affectionate. They refuse to think ill of anyone until the bad qualities are proved. Being straightforward themselves, they imagine everyone else is the same and, on this account, they are likely to suffer some bitter experiences.

However, they lack a proper regard for their own welfare. They are a little too confiding and they are not adaptable. Once they make up their minds on a matter, it is almost impossible to persuade them to change it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TO THESE PEOPLE WE SAY

Don't brood over troubles. Face the facts, fight them out, and then, forget all about them.
Don't be guided by impulses.
Don't neglect the financial side of things, if you want to succeed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

SADISM

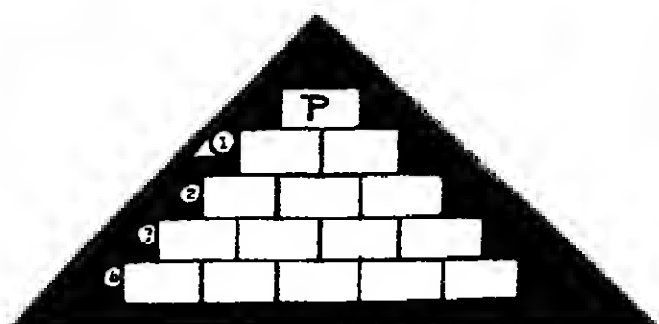
Sadism is a sexual perversion in which gratification is attained by the infliction of physical or mental pain on the person one loves: named for the Marquis de Sade, a French novelist, who was charged with numerous sexual offences. He spent 27 years in prisons or asylums, writing obscene romances, including *Justine* (1791). His theory that since sexual deviation and criminal acts exist in nature, they are natural, foreshadowed modern psychological thought. (compare "Masochism")

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

LETTERS TRIANGLE

In letters triangle you add only a letter to the one at the top to make a meaningful word and then add another new letter to the second row apart from the letters of the first row to produce a word that has also a meaning. You continue doing this with the third and fourth rows. You can insert the letters in each row provided that all the words begin with the letter "P" and give the desired meaning as indicated below.



THE CLUES:

1. Name of father.
2. Container used for cooking.
3. A single sheet of glass used for a window, door, or sash.
4. Members of a jury.

Granny

By E. Yaghi

Granny lived in a big house with her husband, grandpa. They had many children who were mostly all grown up, plus one teenager and many grandchildren. Now granny and her spouse, inspite of having a whole lot of children and who should have been sick and tired of anything having to do with kids, loved their grandchildren dearly, especially two in particular who had come to live with them in the same quarters.

It was difficult at first for granny and grandpa to get used to putting up with small children. They woke up at all hours, cried in the middle of the night and more than that, scattered their toys, food and more importantly, cookie crumbs, and fingerprints all over the house. What made the situation even nicer, the naughty grandchildren's mother seldom bothered to sweep up the crumbs that got ground into the carpeting or wipe off little black fingerprints or help granny prepare the huge meals that looked as if they were made for an army. Thus, poor old granny with her head full of thinning gray hair and a stooped back from working hard to raise all her own children, had to now cook and clean and pick up after a whole lot of people as though she were a young chick herself.

Yet, whenever one of her precious grandchildren cried, granny, and yes, even the pretending to be gruff grandfather would rush to the rescue to save the grandchild in distress.

It came to pass that inspite of the ensuing overcrowded bathrooms, waiting in line for a turn at the iron, and sometimes queuing near the telephone, granny and grandpa loved those little rascals, the grandkids, who had stolen their hearts away. And a very strange thing happened too, those little rascals began to love their grandparents too and in fact, the baby became strongly attached to guess who? Nobody other than granny herself. Oh, baby loved grandpa also, no mistake about it, but when it came to granny, she stuck to her like glue and didn't want to be separated from her grandmother no matter what. Adding insult to injury, she even called her granny "Mama" much to the disgust of the child's mother. In fact, the baby's mother only delighted in using granny as a built in cook, cleaning woman and babysitter and became quite blue in the face whenever baby refused to go to her mother. Even though the food was free, hot meals were cooked every day, and all the other conveniences offered to granny's son, be and his diligent wife (who spent 23 out of 24 hours sitting doing absolutely nothing) decided to move out. Oh, out didn't happen to be too far away, just downstairs a bit, but nevertheless, away from those conniving parents who had the nasty habit of doting on their grandchildren and interfering in the affairs of said son. After all, they were supposed to behave themselves like good grandparents and remain very silent while their grandchildren destroyed their home, smeared black finger marks throughout, broke whatever they could lay their hands on and cried at unearthly hours of the night. Furthermore, they were supposed to turn

their hearts on and off like a water faucet when it came to their grandchildren to the convenience of the kids' mother as though love and affection could be switched on and off so easily. Whenever she wanted to bury herself in her remote room and pretend to be too extremely busy to help cook, clean or straighten up, she often shoos her children out of the room and shut the door on them so they would go and get stuck on their grandparents. It never mattered what the grandparents were doing, or if they were busy or not, it only mattered how convenient it was to the children's mother, but whenever she decided she wanted the children back in her room, she would roughly and sometimes rudely wrench them away from the cook granny and that gruff grandpa who only cared so very much about the welfare of his grandchildren and who so kindly supplied the money to build a new apartment for his son and son's family downstairs.

Well, to make a very long and tiring adventure shorter, granny's son and her daughter-in-law moved out their mess, the noisy grandchildren who had nonetheless won their grandparents' hearts, and went to live in their new apartment with an air that seemed to granny as almost rebellious, leaving granny and her husband with peace and quiet like heaven, no more spilled toys, black fingerprints, cries at all hours of the night or cookie crumbs ground into all the carpets. But something else happened too. It was as granny said to her husband one day not long after the transition of their son moving out, over a hot cup of tea while the two sat brooding in the kitchen, "you know, its so nice not to have to cook such huge meals all alone, to be able to wash and iron when I need to, and not to be taken advantage of so much, but those darling little children left an empty space in our hearts and home. No one will ever know how much we love them or care for them, not even our son. We were rewarded by their mother by their presence when she felt it to be convenient, and when she wanted to spite us, she denied us their company. In other words, for these long five months, our purpose was merely to act as agents for her advantage. She never considered that she could have helped me cook or clean, that was my job, but hers was to do as little as possible in order to save her strength for her own selfishness."

And grandpa said: "How true. Now those months that they stayed with us have vanished like nothing and all the love we put in those little children will be wiped away by their mother. She never helped you cook or clean, for why should she? She didn't even change her own children when they were wet or dirty or keep them warm, or see that they were fed three meals a day, or even stay home to care for them. What do you expect from a woman who is selfish and cares for herself more than our son, her husband, or her own flesh and blood, her children? She wants to show off how clever she is and compete with everyone in everything, but she doesn't care to be a good homemaker or mother which really should be her first priority."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 6

8:30 Flesch And Blood

The proverb says: "Blood is thicker than water." Rachel, the lawyer, finds how true it is as she meets her long lost and forgotten brother.

9:10 Da Beat's On

Mohammad Al Jazirch presents the latest on the pop music charts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Marked For Murder

Upon the suggestion of a woman psychiatrist, a tough prisoner is set free to help with police work, hoping to transform him into a good and a productive citizen. New life begins outside the prison walls.

Friday, Jan. 7

8:30 Walter And Family

Zak, while at his grandparent's house, pretends to be sick to avoid going to school, while his dad is on a business trip.

9:10 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 The River Kings

This is the story of a family forsaken by the father. They are to survive on a barren and dry land. The eldest son's hope is to move out.

11:10 Yes Minister

The Economy Drive

In order to cut spending, the minister suggests doing without the indispensable administrative employees.

Saturday, Jan. 8

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Ronnie seems to suffer from "falling for the older women syndrome." He seeks Anthony's help in rescuing him from a woman...and her mother!!

9:00 Talk Show

9:30 The Campbells

Homeward Bound

James Campbell and his brother-in-law, Andrew, are victims of a conspiracy. Both await the reading out of the will, left behind after the death of Andrew's father.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Deep Trouble

Starring: Robert Wagner, Isabelle Pasco and Ben Cross

A police officer and an American firebrand named Madigan fall in love with the same beautiful woman, Alice, whose father was murdered.

Sunday, Jan. 9

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Bill Cosby gives away the grand prize of \$10,000 to the winning couple in his quiz show.

9:10 Jordanique

Jordanique is a documentary programme that looks into a segment of the Jordanian population — the bedouins, their way of life, and features of their culture and traditions.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Island Son

Gifts

Monday, Jan. 10

8:30 The Torkelsons

Mrs. Torkelson has a row with her son, Steven, because of problems at school. But soon she realises he is justified and he has a good cause.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Happy New Year

Everything is going well at Hope and Michael's New Year's Eve party, until Hope hears the bad news about an old boyfriend of hers.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Mar-nie

Starring: Sean Connery, Diane Baker and Tippi Hedren

In Mar-nie, you are led into the dark and sinister world of Alfred Hitchcock. The colour red is the clue behind Mar-nie's troubled mind. At an early age she had to experience something so horrible that it affected her state of mind.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

8:30 The Respected Family

Talking Baseball

Kim and her grandfather have a strong argument about the baseball game. He believes he knows better because he was one of the best players.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Day One

Day One is the day in 1941 when a Hungarian nuclear physicist arrives in the United States from Germany. President Roosevelt offers him a large sum of money to work on producing a nuclear bomb.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Who's Sara Now?

A question of identity surrounds Sara. Is she, or is she not the real daughter of Harry and Mirrie?

9:10 Documentary — Edgewood

Bad Trip To Edgewood

A powerful and disturbing documentary that shows how since the 50's, the American Defence department, has allowed Nazi-like experiments to be conducted on young American volunteers to test how deadly chemical weapons can be. The barbaric experiments were conducted in Edgewood.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Day One

Day One is the day in 1941 when a Hungarian nuclear physicist arrives in the United States from Germany. President Roosevelt offers him a large sum of money to work on producing a nuclear bomb.

Oscar campaigning — videotapes put

Hollywood on fast forward

By John Horn
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Established to honour the best work seen in movie theatres, the Academy Awards have been transformed into a battle of mass-produced videocassettes judged on TV sets.

The 4,500 Oscar voters are being inundated with a blizzard of free tapes not available in any store as major studios and independent distributors alike desperately battle for precious nomination votes.

Just a few years ago, Oscar campaigns were limited to advertisements in Hollywood trade newspapers. The prevalence of videocassette recorders and the financial rewards of Academy Award attention have merged to put videotape front row, centre, despite worries about videotape piracy.

Titles shipped to academy members range from the highbrow art films *The Piano* and *The Remains Of The Day* to the low-budget children's film *Homeward Bound: The Incredible*



A scene from the film *Gettysburg*

Journey and the quickly forgotten *Thriller* *Malice*.

All four hours of *Gettysburg* — filling two videocassettes — is now in the mail, and cassettes of Debra Winger's *A Dangerous Woman* arrived on some academy doorsteps before the movie arrived at local theatres.

Even though *The Fugitive* was a huge box-office hit and seen by virtually everybody in Hollywood, Warner Bros. shipped its cassette, hopeful that co-star Tommy Lee Jones and director Andy Davis will be remembered when ballots follow Jan. 7.

Oscar officials privately worry that any film not distributed on videocassette to Oscar voters won't be nominated, and some producers face agonising decisions about shipping their visual spectacles on the far less impressive video format.

"Short Cuts should be seen in a theatre in all its 70 millimetre glory," says Ira Deutchman, whose fine line features has yet to "decide" whether to mail cassettes of its film. "On the small

screen, it loses a lot of its impact."

Universal Pictures has declined to make its acclaimed Holocaust film *Schindler's List* available on a videocassette, urging voters to see it in theatres, and will not send out tapes of *Jurassic Park*, the highest-grossing film in movie history.

Unlike voting in acting and creative categories such as costume and cinematography, in which only certain academy branches cast ballots, the entire academy votes for best picture. Voters need not prove they have been either the eligible films or the ones for which they vote.

The academy urges its members to "see movies" in theatres, and they can do so for free; it has no jurisdic-

tional ability to limit the flow of tapes.

The independent distributor Samuel Goldwyn Co. has launched an especially aggressive campaign for its Shakespeare adaptation *Much Ado About Nothing*, Oscar favourite Philadelphia, a film about an AIDS patient, *Schindler's List* and *The Piano*, a love story featuring a mute woman, all debuted at year's end. Director Kenneth Branagh's *Much Ado*, on the other hand, premiered in May, and may be a foggy memory.

Furthermore, the film's co-star Emma Thompson plays prominent roles in *The Remains Of The Day* and the upcoming *In The Name Of The Father*. *Much Ado* best actress votes for Miss Thompson might be hard to come by as her fans will be split among three performances.

In addition to a *Much Ado* videocassette, Goldwyn gave academy members free soundtrack albums, a photo brochure and a book about the film's production. The Oscar pitch was timed to conclude when most competing campaigns begin. The theory: Make *Much Ado* the benchmark against which other films are measured.

"You know the almost ridiculous amounts of money that are spent towards the end of the year by the studios," says company president Samuel Goldwyn Jr. in explaining the grass roots strategy. "How much do you think they're going to spend on *Schindler's List*? We're facing a lot of money."

Budgeted close to



Peter Gallagher (left) with Francis McDormand and Jerrett Lenon in Robert Altman's film *Short Cuts*

\$200,000, the Goldwyn campaign pales in comparison to some studio efforts, which frequently exceed \$500,000. Universal has not disclosed how much it will spend to promote *Schindler's List* as an academy nominee.

"Just buying a lot of advertising is not the way to deal with the academy," Goldwyn says. "The important thing is to be sure everybody sees the picture. I believe that if everybody sees the picture, you've had your shot. Whether or not we can get the nomination is anybody's guess."

Columbia Pictures assembled the most impressive Oscar video mailer, shipping nine cassettes by Federal Express in a box. Fine Line's *Deutchman* said resembled "The kind of case you'd think would hold two very expensive bottles of champagne."

The Columbia assortment included likely Oscar nominee *The Remains Of The Day* and *Groundhog Day*, a longshot even for the far less prestigious Gol-

den Globe Awards.

Independent Miramax films will send out cassettes of the Chinese film *Farewell My Concubine*, even though the subtitled movie will lose a lot in the process.

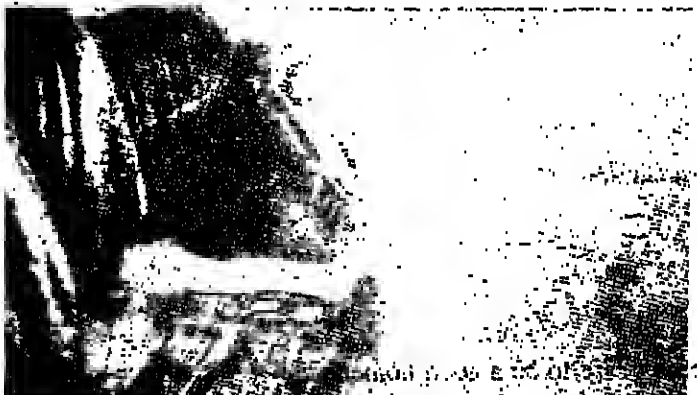
"Concubine is difficult on video but we nonetheless did it," says Harvey Weinstein, whose Miramax was

one of the first to exploit videocassettes for Oscar votes. "Seeing it on cassette and seeing it on the big screen are two different things."

"But the nomination is a sure-fire way to bring mass attention to a movie. It's almost a good housekeeping seal of approval."



Zhang Fengyi (left) and Leslie Cheung in *Farewell My Concubine*



A scene from *Jurassic Park* by Steven Spielberg

Denzel Washington looks ahead to directing

By Jim Loney
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Denzel Washington, one of Hollywood's hottest actors, makes no secret of his desire to play a different part — behind the camera.

With starring roles in two Christmas releases — opposite Tom Hanks in the Jonathan Demme AIDS drama *Philadelphia* and co-starring with Julia Roberts in Alan Pakula's *The Pelican Brief* — Washington is a bankable Hollywood attraction, one of the actors audiences most want to see.

Yet his decisions to work with Demme and Pakula went much further than good paychecks, good scripts and good co-stars. "I'm plucking their brains because I'm looking to direct," said Washington.

Both *Philadelphia* — a Tri-Star release which made its limited debut in New York, Los Angeles and

Toronto on Dec. 22 and hits movie screens around the nation on Jan. 14 — and *The Pelican Brief*, already in mass release, are expected to be big winners at the box office.

Yet Washington seems unimpressed with his status as one of Hollywood's leading men and more interested in his agenda for the future.

"I'm not on the movie star track," he told Reuters in a recent interview at a Los Angeles hotel. "For the last two or three years now it's been very important what director I work with."

Indeed, a peek at Washington's recent resume reveals an actor making the rounds of the best directors of the day: Pakula and Demme, Kenneth Branagh and Spike Lee.

"I needed the challenge. I needed something from the directors. I needed to go further," he said. "I felt like I was getting stagnant."

"I've been plucking (Robert) Redford's brains, I've been plucking Branagh's brains. I've been plucking Pakula. He was great. Obviously, Jonathan Demme is one of the greatest directors around."

"I'm just learning," Washington, 38, began his trek to the pinnacle as George Segal's illegitimate son in *Carbon Copy* (1981) and received his first popular reviews on the critically acclaimed television series *St. Elsewhere*.

He went on to an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor as Steven Biko in the 1987 anti-apartheid film *Cry Freedom* and won that award for *Glory* in 1989. His most recent triumph was the starring role in Spike Lee's *Malcolm X*.

In *The Pelican Brief*, an action-thriller based on the novel by John Grisham, Washington plays investigative journalist Gray Gran-

tham, who becomes embroiled in an assassination plot at the highest levels of government.

The film marks Roberts' return to moviemaking after a long hiatus and Washington admits that his agent — at least — was excited about the commercial prospects.

"My agent's like, 'she hasn't made a movie in three years and this is the big comeback.' I could hear the (cash register) going 'cha-ching' in his head," Washington chuckles.

Philadelphia, on the other hand, is expected to become a cinematic "event," one of Hollywood's few — and, to date, grandest — attempts to weave insightful and compelling drama around the AIDS crisis.

In *Philadelphia*, Washington plays Joe Miller, a street-smart, ambulance-chasing lawyer known around town as "the

TV guy" for his high-pressure client-seeking television commercials.

His happy personal-injury practice is interrupted by the plight of the Hanks' character, Andrew Beckett, and AIDS sufferer who asks Miller to represent him in a wrongful dismissal lawsuit against his former employers at a high-powered Philadelphia law firm.

The acting challenge, declares Washington, was to make himself something he's not — a homophobic, who through the course of the film undergoes a metamorphosis.

During one telling scene, Beckett walks into Miller's law office. In a series of quick cuts he touches various objects on Miller's desk and a look of unease comes over the lawyer's face. Miller then rushes off to a doctor to find out just



Law student Julia Roberts with investigative reporter Denzel Washington in *The Pelican Brief*

how easy it is to get AIDS.

"I had to work at being Joe Miller," Washington said. "I would never react the way he did to shaking

someone's hand."

Yet Washington admits the role cause him to do a lot of soul-searching about his true feelings.

"You have to really confront yourself," he said. "Maybe you wouldn't react that way. But would you feel that way?"

Vietnam film looks at Hanoi's MIA tragedy

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

HANOI — An army truck packed with corpses barrels through a Vietnamese mountain pass.

Inside, the military driver calmly lights a stick of incense in a plea to the dead to keep them safe. They are the lucky ones, headed for a proper burial at Truong Son, Vietnam's largest cemetery for its war dead.

With these stark shots, the film *Wild Reed* begins one of Vietnam's first cinematic looks at a tragedy that has gripped the U.S. public and still divides Hanoi and Washington: Soldiers listed as "missing in action," or MIA, almost two decades after the guns fell silent on the Vietnam War.

While U.S. attempts to

discover the fate of its more than 2,000 MIAs have been told by journalists and film directors, little has been done in Vietnam to illuminate the struggle to account for its own missing.

"This is the story of all of us," Director Vuong Tuan Duc said in an interview. "The dead have to be accounted for, or else they keep fighting with the living."

The sheer size of Vietnam's MIA problem makes it appear almost unsolvable. From the start of its anti-colonial war against France in 1941 to its withdrawal from Cambodia in 1989, the country was at war for almost five decades.

Tran Cong Man, an army major general and veteran military journalist, said Hanoi estimates it has 300,000 MIAs from the war

with the United States and the former South Vietnamese government in Saigon alone.

"This number only refers to regular soldiers with the North Vietnamese army and Communist forces," Man said. "It does not count missing soldiers from the Saigon regime, or civilians."

"I myself lost an older brother in the war against the French and a younger brother in the war against the Americans. Their remains have never been found."

Duc's film tries to bring that experience to the screen, showing the anguish of a North Vietnamese officer who returns to his hometown with a Vietnamese MIA search team in 1976 to discover his wife has remarried, believing him to be dead.

He is also plagued by guilt over the death of a junior soldier who lies buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the reed-covered hills.

While *Wild Reed* may be rough and swerve too frequently into melodrama by Hollywood standards, it still tries to address the emotions of those who survived Vietnam's wars as they reconcile themselves with those who did not.

"We were trying to look at the war from a different angle, with our eyes on human element," said screenwriter Le Hoai Nguyen, a former "student-soldier" who adapted the story from a novel by the late author Nguyen Minh Chau.

Wild Reed represents a major gamble for Vietnam's

beleaguered movie-makers: It is the only full-length film completed by the official Vietnam Feature Film Studio in 1993.

The country's only other major studio, Liberation Films, made no celluloid features this year, industry analysts said.

"The government has sharply cut back on subsidies, so there is no money," Duc said. But he was lucky enough to receive government financial help for his project, with subsidies accounting for half of his 600 million dong (\$60,000) budget.

The money, earmarked for films with the right political content, was available because *Wild Reed* is about the war. But when Duc arrived in Quang Tri province to film, financial considerations were over-

whelmed by the power of the story.

"Frankly, I chose this topic because I knew I could get funding. But that is only the beginning," he said.

Quang Tri, a small province at the slender waist that once divided North and South Vietnam, was the scene of some of the toughest fighting of the war, with heavy casualties among civilians and soldiers.

"There are more than 10 cemeteries in Quang Tri for war dead, each with more than 10,000 graves. Two-thirds of these are unidentified," said Duc. "That is just one small province. Imagine what it is like for the country."

Through the army officer, Duc takes his viewers on Vietnam's heart-breaking hunt for its MIA's — from

searching bulletin boards for photographs to clawing holes in the ground at former battlefields to turn up shards of human bone.

This is a trek undertaken by countless Vietnamese families, some of whom walk hundreds of kilometres south along routes once followed by soldiers in hope of stumbling across someone or something to indicate where their sons fell.

"Identification is a big problem," Man said. "We only started to use identification bracelets for soldiers, like dog-tags, in the final years of the war. Most were just buried and then marked down on paper maps."

The film's young soldier, killed in a mortar attack, does not join the other bodies carefully wrapped in

plastic and placed in a truck. His body is lost forever to the mountains — although his ghost returns to haunt the former officer.

"How can you find us if you yourself want to forget the suffering," the ghost asks, leaning on his gun in the blasted ruin of a church. "We want to live in the memory of the living."

The officer himself finds a slightly happier resolution to his tragedy. After a bitersweet encounter with his former wife, he is introduced to the small daughter he left behind.

"War is like the slice of a knife, it cleaves life in half," he says in the film's final moments as he carries the laughing little girl down a path away from the unmarked graves.

"The most painful thing is that it is not a clean cut."

Failure to stick to vaccination schedule pushing spread of whooping cough

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. children are coming down with whooping cough in huge numbers this year because too many are failing to receive vaccinations on time, federal health officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported there were 5,457 cases of whooping cough through Dec. 4, the highest number of cases since 1967. Outbreaks have occurred in Chicago and Cincinnati.

In addition, more teenagers and adults are coming down with the sometimes fatal cough and passing it to susceptible younger children in their households, the Atlanta-based CDC reported.

"We're not vaccinating our children well enough. It is a real warning," said Dr. D.A. Henderson, deputy assistant secretary for

health and science at the Public Health Service in Washington.

Whooping cough, also called pertussis or the 100-day cough, is a bacterial disease characterized by a severe cough that comes in uncontrollable bursts and ends in a deep, wheezing sound. The cough lasts for several weeks and can cause pneumonia, seizures and inflammation of the brain.

Infants under age 1 are most severely affected by the disease. More than half of infants with whooping cough must be hospitalized and one in 200 dies from it.

This was expected to be a bad year for whooping cough, which tends to peak every three to four years. The number of cases this year jumped 82 per cent over last year and 19 per cent over 1990, the last peak year.

In addition to the out-

breaks in Chicago and Cincinnati, 35 states reported an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough over last year.

The CDC found that about half the preschool-age children who came down with whooping cough this year hadn't received the proper vaccination.

Children are supposed to receive a DTP shot — the vaccination to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis — at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 15 months. They should receive a booster shot before they enter school, between ages 4 and 6.

"These were potentially preventable cases," said Dr. Iain Hardy of the CDC's National Immunisation Programme.

Dr. Henderson said parents and doctors have become too complacent about

sticking to the vaccination schedule.

"What we're trying to get across (to doctors) is that every time you see a young child, the vaccination status should be checked out," he said. "And the parents think everything seems to be all right if their child is not sick. They're not understanding that the child needs four doses."

The CDC also found that the proportion of adults and teenagers getting whooping cough is on the rise — from 19.8 per cent in 1980-89 to 26.9 per cent in 1992-93.

Adults and teens who have been vaccinated still can get the disease because the vaccine wears off after several years. But they typically suffer a milder version of the cough and are misdiagnosed as having bronchitis or an allergy, Hardy said.

Scientists find alternative to bone marrow transplants

LONDON (R) — British scientists said they had pioneered a more effective and less traumatic alternative to bone marrow transplants in the fight against certain cancers.

Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) scientists in Manchester, England, said the technique involved a single transfusion of blood cells taken from patients before they are given intensive chemotherapy.

CRC's Scientific Director Gordon McVie said that the Manchester scientists had shown the way forward by

developing a technique which was extremely effective in re-arming the body to fight back after intensive chemotherapy.

It was used successfully in studies at Christie Hospital and the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research on more than 70 people with a variety of cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma, breast cancer and Hodgkin's disease.

"Following intensive chemotherapy for their cancer, these patients had a faster recovery of the infection-

fighting white cells and of the platelets which prevent bleeding," said Derek Crowther, head of the CRC Department of Medical Oncology at Christie Hospital.

Bone marrow manufactures the disease-fighting blood cells of the immune system. Its transplantation can be painful and there is a risk that bone marrow received from a donor may manufacture blood cells that wage a misguided attack on the body of the recipient.

Dr. Crowther said: "Patients also required fewer days in hospital following their intensive treatment. I believe this makes this approach an improvement on bone marrow transplantation because not only is it more convenient for the patient, it is also more cost effective," he said.

"This could revolutionise the way therapy is given to many cancer patients. It also fulfills two of the campaign's aims, namely to develop effective treatments and lessen the burden of treatment for patients."

Research shows abortion pill may work as male contraceptive

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The French-made abortion pill may lead to an oral contraceptive for men that would become active in a few seconds and could be taken right before sexual intercourse.

The effect of the male pill would also wear off quickly, said the developer of the abortion pill, Dr. Etienne-Emile Beaulieu. "I can envisage a pill that can be effective for varying amounts of time — for one hour to one week to one month," he said.

Recent test-tube experiments with human sperm show that the pill may work as a kind of "hormonal condom," according to Dr. Beaulieu.

He said Monday that preliminary testing on rats and monkeys will begin soon. Human testing is expected to start in two or three years.

"Clearly if something could immobilise the sperm and ideally be reversible, that would be a breakthrough," said Dr. Allan Rosenfield, dean of the Columbia University School of Public Health. He said he needed to see the study before commenting further, but described Dr. Beaulieu as "a solid scientist."

Male contraception has long been limited to the use of condoms, vasectomy or heavy-duty hormone treatments to prevent sperm formation.

"I'm extremely optimistic that a good contraceptive pill for men, without the negative side effects usually associated with hormone treatments, is just down the road," Dr. Beaulieu told the AP.

Details of his team's findings were reported in the Jan. 4 proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. An advance copy of the article was obtained by the Associated Press.

Dr. Beaulieu conducted his research at France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research with Dr. Pierre Jouannet of the Bicêtre Hospital in Paris.

Dr. Beaulieu said their research showed that the drug in the abortion pill, RU-486, as well as its chemical derivatives, prevent calcium from penetrating the sperm. Without calcium, sperm lose their mobility and cannot fertilise the female egg.

The findings were a major breakthrough for male contraception because RU-486 did not cause the negative side effects associated with other techniques that block sperm formation, according to Dr. Beaulieu.

Other methods involve the ingestion of Progesterone and Testosterone, natural steroid hormones. They take three months to become effective and three months to wear off. RU-486, or Mifepristone, is in a class of drugs called antiprogesterins.

They work in women by blocking or inhibiting the action of progesterone, essential for maintaining pregnancy. When combined with another hormone, Prostaglandin, the drugs cause an embryo to be expelled from the uterus.

Dr. Beaulieu said RU-486 also prevents the head of the sperm from changing form, also essential in fertilisation. However, he said more research is necessary to find out whether the pill has the same effect in men, who each produce 130 million sperm daily.

Africa fears it must fight AIDS alone

By Stephen Hughes
Reuters

RABAT — A full-page advertisement in the Moroccan press depicts the African continent floating in a black void with the caption: "Is Africa condemned to fight AIDS alone?"

It expresses fears that more than 300 million people in Africa, which has the world's highest rate of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), will get less help than before to combat the so-far incurable fatal disease.

Professor Abdallah Bensliman, chairman of the 8th African AIDS conference held in the southern Moroccan

city of Marrakesh, said financial aid is a big problem.

Average spending on health services on the continent is \$3.50 a head a year and 29 of the world's 42 poorest states are in Africa. In some the AIDS rate is soaring.

Prof. Bensliman reckons a Moroccan could spend a whole month's income on condoms. They are not made in Africa and when imported the price has increased ten-fold.

"There is a negative trend. Financial aid for AIDS programmes is being diverted to Asia and Eastern Europe," Prof. Bensliman told Reuters in an interview.

The anti-AIDS association Act-Up staged a sit-in at the Cooperation Ministry in Paris last month in protest against its alleged failure to grant sufficient aid to Africa.

A group of 30 demonstrators chanted "Third World forgotten. Third World assassinated" and other slogans.

In a statement the ministry said France had allocated 300 million francs (\$51 million) for medical assistance in Africa to more than 100 technicians devoted exclusively to the AIDS problem.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that by the year 2000 the number of cases could reach

five million.

"We are faced by an impending catastrophe. Until a cure or a vaccine is found our only hope is prevention," Prof. Bensliman said.

If the spread of the disease is not arrested "it is possible that within ten years the elite in African countries will be simply wiped out," he said, saying that elites tended to be more sexually active although better educated.

"The answer is in three words: Fidelity, abstinence and protection. No one, no religion, can quarrel with that."

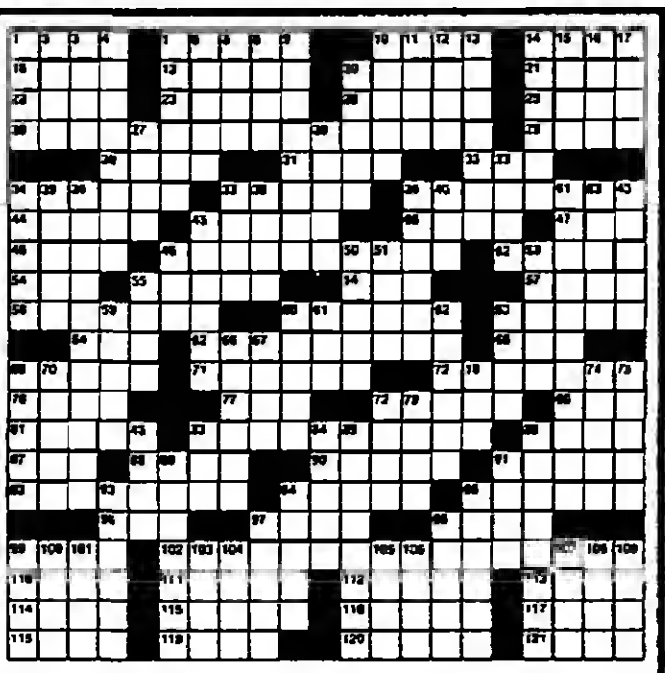
He stressed that Islam, Christianity and Judaism all preached fidelity.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MAKING OUT
By James & Phyllis Barrick

ACROSS
1 Kind of player
5 Adds —
10 Tablets
11 Pressed cheese
12 Christmas, today
13 Old French dance
14 Condo
15 Smoke or Foch
16 Win
17 In agreement
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Last Week's Cryptograms

- When tipsy boxer mistook store mannequin's chipped eye for a Niry
- Lox and hazel costs use dollar at cheap deli — a big dollop of cream
- Of course, some mild discord in friends' discourse is no real cause for
- What man first uttered those famous words: "Time wounds all heels?"

CRYPTOGRAMS

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LFCP NSOAWLHA PLN TBW IER BELZ PLNE
SHISOFT IOV. —By Barbara J. Ruz

2. BLAH BA AWPROMSAY, "KLMD TRY TJPL
MO GEAKKI JURL" BAEAKU BA
AWGEADDNUH ON TWISTETTY —By Ed Haddison

3. BUGAX BRETAX LEGAT POW BUL BOLD EN
EVA QAKVA, LOXAA, LRU ZUKY, EMQ E
WLLT PRKZ. —By Duane H. McGow

4. V MAIL XMIX LAXVLAU CPEXTAR EAHY T
LAXZLR XP XMAVL PHY EXITUVN
NLPZYR. —By Eugene T. Malaska

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U.S. approves new drug for treating cystic fibrosis

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced approval of a drug offering the first new treatment for cystic fibrosis in 30 years.

The agency said it has licensed the production of the drug Dornase Alfa, commonly called Dnase, a product of recombinant DNA technology.

Cystic fibrosis, an inherited disorder, affects about 30,000 people in the United States.

"Although this new product is not a cure for cystic fibrosis, the clinical data show that it can make a real difference in the quality of life for many patients," FDA Commissioner David Kessler said.

"This is the first treatment that specifically improves lung function in cystic fibrosis patients," he said.

Dnase is manufactured by Genentech Inc. of San Francisco and will be marketed under the trade name Pulmozyme.

Approval came following

a six-month clinical trial of the drug involving 968 people suffering from cystic fibrosis. Some were given a neutral placebo and some were given the drug.

"Daily doses of Dnase, when used in conjunction with standard therapies, reduced the risk of severe respiratory tract infections by 27 per cent and increased patients' lung function," the FDA said.

But there were side effects: Inflammation of the throat, chest pain, voice alteration and laryngitis.

No tests were conducted to test the drug's safety and effectiveness in children under 5 or in patients with less than a 40 per cent breathing function. Nor was the drug tested to see if it would be safe and effective for more than a year.

Genentech said the drug reduces lung infections by breaking up the thick mucus accumulation that is the major complication of cystic fibrosis, which is the most common lethal inherited disease among Caucasians.

Cystic fibrosis is caused when a baby inherits a flawed gene from each parent. The disorder causes the buildup of dense mucus in the walls of the breathing airway and in the digestive tract. Frequent bacterial infections and eventual damage to lung tissue usually result.

Dnase acts by dissolving the tangle of mucus from dead cells that accumulates in the lungs. It is inhaled through a device that converts the liquid drug into an atomized spray.

The drug thins and then liquefies the mucus, which then can be coughed up.

Michael J. Sevka, an FDA doctor, has said that the long-term use of the drug is still not known.

"Every child with cystic fibrosis faces a premature death sentence and each faces a quality of life that we would consider unacceptable," Robert J. Beall, executive vice president for medical affairs of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, said.

He said the life expectancy for children with cystic fibrosis was once about five years but that patients now live until about age 29 because of improved treatment techniques.

Scientists complete genome chart

PARIS (AFP) — French researchers have completed a chart of the "first generation" of the human genome.

The chart, an achievement that should speed up the process of identification of genes responsible for diseases.

The French Academy recently published the results of research leading to the creation of the "genomic guide" which is to be made freely available to the international scientific community.

An account of the work by scientists Daniel Cohen, Ilya Chumakov and Jean Weissbach was published in the Dec. 16 issue of the British scientific review Nature.

The contents of the "physical chart of the first generation of the human genome" — the genome, a set of chromosomes, is a component which carries all the information necessary for the existence of life — were placed in a data bank open from Dec. 15 to 31

prior to the publication of a 300-page printed version early this year.

"This is only a first geographic chart, with imperfections, but which covers almost 90 per cent of the genome."

The chart gives an overall view, with its imperfections, just as Christopher Columbus' chart gave an overall view of the Earth, without the precision of maps supplied by satellites," Dr. Cohen commented.

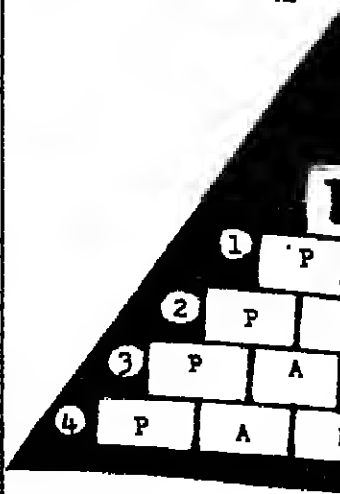
He believed it would take 15 years to achieve a genome map of comparable precision.

"But we thought (this chart) was sufficiently good to help us speed up the identification of the genes of diseases and serve as a basis for the following stages," he added.

Glenn Evans, director of the Salk Institute Research Centre into the Human Genome, said the chart represented a major advance for human genetics.

SOLUTION PUZZLES

LETTERS TRIANGLE



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Gulf babies maimed at birth

By Simon Tisdall

WAYNESBORO, Mississippi — Unusually high rates of birth defects, rare physical abnormalities, and life-threatening health problems are being detected in babies fathered by United States servicemen who may have been exposed to biological or chemical weapons during the Gulf war three years ago.

The children's plight is matched by what appears to be an abnormally high rate of miscarriage and illness among Gulf veterans' wives.

The disclosures will raise fears that the "Gulf syndrome" — an unexplained, chronic, illness which has affected about 4,000 U.S. and an estimated 500 British troops — can cause genetic damage or has a viral component that has communicated to the soldiers' families.

According to well-placed U.S. officials and congressional investigators, the problems of a growing number of "Gulf babies" born since the war range from rare blood diseases, severe respiratory disorders, and enlarged or underdeveloped vital organs to physical deformities such as fused fingers or club feet.

In most cases, there appears to be no family history of such problems; and children conceived by the same parents before the war were born healthy.

The biggest cluster of cases discovered so far is in Waynesboro, a small town in south-eastern Mississippi. Officials of the U.S. government's veterans' affairs department confirmed recently that 13 of 15 infants born since the war to members of a National Guard unit based there have unusual and unexplained health problems.

The 624th Quartermaster Company, served in Saudi Arabia and Iraq from January to April 1991, and was twice under biological or chemical attack, according to unit members interviewed recently.

John Ellis said he recalled a big explosion near King Khaled Military City in Saudi Arabia. "It seemed like it was five or seven miles away but it

knocked everyone down. We had an alert for chemical weapons," he said. The alert was one of several which commanding officers later called false alarms.

Dennis West, a sergeant in the Waynesboro unit, reported that an Iraqi Scud shot down by a Patriot missile scattered debris on their camp. He and others believe the Scud may have been what the troops called a "milkshake" — carrying chemical agents, nerve gas, and a virus.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. West are victims of the Gulf syndrome, and both have fathered children since the war. Jonathan Ellis, aged one, was born with dangerously under-developed lungs, according to his mother, Serena, and is constantly ill.

Mr. West's daughter, Reed, aged 22 months, was born with an identical problem and has repeatedly suffered from pneumonia and bronchitis, according to her mother, Ammie. Neither child was premature, nor had either mother had a history of pregnancy problems or ill-health in the family.

Tracey West, the wife of another Waynesboro guardsman, said her son Jeremy, born last July, was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder. Her husband, Jamie, has been unwell since returning from the Gulf.

She said doctors told her after the birth that her blood type had changed from group O Rh-negative to O Rh-positive. "The doctors said this can't happen. They couldn't explain it. I know it can't happen. But it has," Tracey and Jamie West have been told they cannot have any more children.

The baby of Suzi McCarty, wife of another Waynesboro guardsman, was born with a deformed umbilical cord which had caused kidney damage to the foetus. Another woman, who asked not to be named, said her baby was born with a blood disorder. In both cases, their doctors told them the babies' conditions were extremely rare, they said.

Ron Kirkpatrick and other officials at the department of veterans' affairs medical centre

in Jackson, Mississippi, said they could not comment on the cause or on the coincidence of the Waynesboro Gulf babies' problems. Mr. Kirkpatrick said all the Waynesboro cases were under investigation.

But congressional sources said the main reason why an inquiry had been launched was that the constituency of Sonny Montgomery, chairman of the House of Representatives veterans affairs committee, borders on Waynesboro.

Mr. Montgomery said this month that the rate of illnesses among the Waynesboro babies was abnormally high. He also asked the national Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta to assist government and Mississippi state health officials to "document, analyse, and monitor the problems of Gulf veterans and their children."

But while the veterans are now being registered, tested, and in some cases, treated for Gulf syndrome, the government provides no such assistance for their families.

All the Waynesboro women said their medical bills had mounted into the tens of thousands of dollars and many of them were in debt as a result.

Last Monday, President Clinton signed into law a bill requiring the veterans affairs department to give priority attention and treatment to "veterans who may have been exposed... during the Gulf war to a toxic substance or environmental hazard."

The new law represented an advance for those who claim that biological or chemical weapons or toxic agents may have caused Gulf syndrome, but it makes no provision for wives and children.

The problems extend far beyond Waynesboro. Mr. Kirkpatrick revealed that the medical records of children fathered by members of an additional three Mississippi Gulf war units are to be examined for evidence of a pattern or common factor.

"Out of 285 men and women in the four Mississippi units, 54 have told us that they have had children since Desert Shield and Desert Storm," Mr. Kirkpatrick said. "Of that, 54, 36 have told us their child has some kind of health problem."

Similar reports of abnormally high rates of birth defects among the children of Gulf veterans are surfacing elsewhere in the U.S., but for the most part, they are not being formally investigated.

In Alabama, 28 of 33 members of a navy reserve unit say they are suffering from the Gulf syndrome, the symptoms of which include skin rashes, nausea, diarrhoea, cramps, headaches, loss of memory and fatigue.

But according to Nick Roberts, a member of the Alabama unit, five of the men's spouses and several of their children are also the victims of unexplained and so far undiagnosed illnesses.

Other cases of babies who have apparently acquired their fathers' illnesses, perhaps genetically, perhaps through a virus, have been reported in Texas, Iowa and California.

Meanwhile, Mrs. West of Waynesboro said she had identified or heard of dozens of cases of Gulf veterans' wives who had suffered miscarriages, often late into their term, and after having had children in the past without any problem. Women in their early twenties, she said, were having Down's syndrome babies — a most unusual occurrence.

Mrs. West, who has organised the Waynesboro women, took on the Jackson veterans' affairs department at a meeting she called last month. "We wanted to talk to them about our problems," she said. "But they had a different idea. They gave us a slide-show about home loans."

"The meeting turned real ugly. There was about 250 people there but the VA weren't listening to us. I think they were pretty shocked by the reaction. They apologised the next day."

Mrs. West said her medical bills for Reed amounted to \$40,000 and her private insurance was running out. She had no idea what caused the Gulf syndrome or her child's illness, but she knew that "what's happening's not right."

"Some of the doctors have told us that if you're exposed to chemical toxins, that can change your genetic make-up, change the chromosomes somehow. If it's biological, it can be a virus. I don't know. I work in a bank!"

"But what they don't realise is that when you get hold of a mother, you get hold of the wrong thing. The politicians think they can ignore the men. But when it's children, they can't walk away. You don't mess with a mother."

Several Waynesboro wives said they did not trust the government to tell them the whole truth even if the cause of

Gulf syndrome was eventually established.

Apart from biological and chemical weapons or toxic agents released by U.S. bombing of Iraqi targets, possible causes that have been named include toxins released by the oil fires in Kuwait, uranium depletion caused by exploding ammunition, desert parasites and Pentagon-issued anti-nerve gas tablets.

The Pentagon does not officially recognise the existence of Gulf syndrome. Only last month it finally confirmed French and Czech reports that chemical agents, including nerve gas and mustard gas, had been detected in low concentrations in the Gulf region. But it maintains the readings were not produced by the use of weapons and were too low to be considered harmful.

Funds earmarked for Gulf syndrome research were included by the House of Representatives in next year's Pentagon budget. But the \$2.9 million was cut by more than three-quarters later in meetings behind closed doors.

Mr. Montgomery, whose committee will hold public hearings early next year on the Gulf syndrome and the Waynesboro cases in particular, is attempting to have the research cuts restored. The Pentagon's annual budget is about \$360 billion.

Britons show no evidence of syndrome

No evidence of "Gulf syndrome" has been found among British veterans, the Ministry of Defence says.

The ministry has been investigating the syndrome since Jeremy Hanley, the Armed Forces minister, appealed in July to British veterans to come forward with their medical stories.

Ten men so far referred to the MoD's medical services as a result of the appeal have been found to be suffering from "recognised medical conditions unconnected with their service in the Gulf," a spokesman said. One other case has still to be assessed, and the ministry is willing to look at any further cases where the relevant symptoms — including headaches, rashes and hair loss — are unexplained.

However, a separate study by the Royal British Legion indicates that about 500 British veterans may be suffering from the syndrome. A questionnaire was sent in September to the men — identified in a confidential database provided by the charity Tact (Trauma Aftercare Trust) — asking if they needed help, for example with a war disability claim. Thirty-six had replied.



Ammie West cradles her daughter: 'You don't mess with a mother'

Dr. Alastair Hay, of Leeds University's department of chemical pathology, said very low concentrations of nerve gas had been reported near the Saudi border, possibly following the detonation of an ammunition dump, but it had not been confirmed that Scuds carried chemical weapons.

The MoD reaffirmed that, despite a number of chemical warfare alerts, "there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that chemical weapons were used by the Iraqis." Nor were British troops exposed to harmful levels of chemical or biological agents as a result of allied bombing raids on Iraqi factories.

There is evidence that certain chemicals can damage sperm, and defects can be transmitted to babies. A recent review of paternal exposure to chemicals before conception, published in the British Medical Journal, said that damage to a foetus could include spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, malformations, pre-

mature delivery or the birth of infants who are smaller than normal. But Dr. Hay said that, given that the troops had not become acutely ill in the Gulf, the chance of transmitting defects through sperm was extremely unlikely. Some medical problems, such as stomach illness, could have been caused by drugs given as an antidote to chemical attack, but more studies were needed, he said.

In August, the U.S. National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine concluded that the Agent Orange defoliant used in the Vietnam war, caused cancer in some veterans. The study reached no conclusions on birth defects, although they have been seen in animals exposed to Agent Orange.

An independent inquiry was demanded by David Clark, the shadow defence minister. "I remain unconvinced that the government is taking this issue seriously," he said — *The Guardian*.

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Jordan remains firm

(Continued from page 1)

a group of journalists earlier this week that the Kingdom feared ending up "with separate courses rather than tracks."

And while Dr. Anani was willing to concede that these separate courses are historically present because of common interests, he feared that lack of coordination among the Jordanians and Palestinians would create inertia by making (the parties) rivals and competitive in dealing with Israel at the expense of each other.

In a statement he made Tuesday, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam referred to the comprehensiveness of the negotiations by saying "the concept of comprehensiveness cannot be ignored (and has to come) in coordination with Lebanon and Jordan."

Mr. Khaddam did not mention the PLO as part of the comprehensive solution but criticised it for signing the declaration of principles (DoP) and predicted that "Israel would emerge the winner" as a result of this move.

The Syrians did not hide their displeasure with Jordan over the latter's agenda agreement with Israel, which was signed in Washington on Sept. 14, not only because they might have thought it was a prelude to reaching a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state, but also

because it gave a diplomatic and political cover for the Sept. 13 agreement between the PLO and Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, at the time, issued what was seen as a warning to Jordan, but the issue was diffused soon afterwards when King Hussein visited President Assad in Damascus and reportedly assured him that Amman would not go it alone despite all the pressures it faced from the Americans and Israelis.

Officials and analysts here believe that Jordan cannot forge coordination with Syria and that this was made clear in His Majesty's statement Tuesday when he said that he had spoken about coordination with Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. "We have proven our commitment to work together. No one should believe that we will go it alone in this regard."

But while the Kingdom is committed to coordination with Syria, politicians agree that Jordan could not respond positively to dropping the PLO from coordination efforts because "it is a complicated and intricate relationship."

The King's virtual ultimatum to the PLO, while indicative of "tension" in relations between the two leaderships, can and should "serve interests of both Jordan and the PLO without hurting relations with Syria," one official said.

Israel, PLO reach compromise

(Continued from page 1)

the right to reject those coming across.

The control of the crossings between Jordan and Jericho, and Egypt and Gaza has been a major sticking point and delayed the start of the Israeli withdrawal scheduled for December.

Jewish seminary at school site

Jerusalem's city council, under a new right-wing mayor, has taken the first step to turn a site earmarked for an Arab school into a housing for a Jewish seminary, a municipal spokeswoman said.

Palestinians fear the move may signal the start of a campaign by Ehud Olmert to settle

more Jews among 150,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Officials of the Beit Orot seminary on the Mount of Olives in Arab East Jerusalem moved seven mobile homes to the site under cover of darkness on Monday night, hours after a municipal sub-committee approved the plan.

"The site was (originally) zoned for a middle school. The sub-committee for planning approved the Beit Orot Yesbiva's request to build housing on it," municipal spokeswoman Ruth Jaffe said.

She said the land was "privately" owned "by Jews who wanted the land used for the benefits of Jews and that Mr. Olmert supported the committee's decision."

Jordan, PLO in crucial coordination talks

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee members Mohammad Zuhdi Al Nashashibi and Yasser Amr and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeh Abdul Rahim.

The King's meeting was preceded and followed by the two meetings between a high-level Jordanian delegation and the PLO team chaired by Dr. Tal and Mr. Kaddoumi. In addition to Dr. Anani, the Jordanian side included Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mahdi Farhan.

Following the first meeting in the morning, Dr. Tal indicated that the two sides had agreed on the principles of

future coordination.

"There is total agreement on the principles and objectives," Dr. Tal said. "We are discussing the means and policies that could translate these principles into realities."

Mr. Kaddoumi also remained very general, saying that he agreed with King Hussein that "the relationship should be built on a sound and clear basis."

Mr. Kaddoumi sought to play down the differences. "There is no crisis," he said. "This is a family affair and we have come here to discuss all issues pertaining to the future of the one family."

"There is a keen desire for

the need to carry out joint work because we are approaching a very dangerous period and this explains King Hussein's recent statements and his desire to build relations on healthy foundations," he said.

PLO officials have said that the organisation was seeking the postponement of the signing of the agreement until the formation of the national Palestinian authority. The officials have also said that the Palestinian side was hoping that the Israelis will agree to the setting up of a Palestinian central bank.

But sources in Tunis said on Wednesday that proceeding

with practical economic arrangements with Jordan did not need to wait for the setting up of a Palestinian authority, and that the issue of a Palestinian central bank was still a subject of serious discussion in Tunis.

There was no confirmation by the PLO if it was ready to drop its demand for confederal relations with Jordan as a basis for present and future agreements. But PLO officials said that Mr. Arafat was seeking agreements that will lay the basis for a relationship on equal footing between Jordan and the future entity.

The fact that Mr. Kaddoumi is the head of the Palestinian delegation, is viewed as a positive sign since he understands reservations expressed by Arab governments about the Israeli-Palestinian accord and he himself has been critical of the failure of the PLO to coordinate with the other Arab countries.

Mr. Kaddoumi himself was kept in the dark about the accord, and was not involved in the secret negotiations in Oslo and did not sign it in Washington — although he is the formal Palestinian foreign minister.

Mr. Kaddoumi, a cofounder of the Fatah movement, believes that close coordination with Arab countries, particularly with Jordan, was crucial lest the Palestinians would be left alone under Israel's mercy.

Mr. Kaddoumi represents a growing trend within the PLO that expresses deep fears that the accord could turn against the Palestinian and Arab interests unless there is close coordination with the Arab countries.

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THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY/NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION FORTHCOMING EVENTS JANUARY 1994

Wednesday, 12 January - 8:00 p.m.

Flute & Piano Recital

Other and daughter ensemble Patricia and Julie Carter will present a special recital of American, Austrian, Polish and French art music on flute and piano. The program includes pieces by Schubert, Chopin, Poulenc, Copland and others. It will be a beautiful example of a musical family performing together to create a very special concert atmosphere. Violinist Mohammad Ali Abbas and cellist Ali Musa of the faculty of the National Music Conservatory will also participate in this fine concert.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Ticket price: JD 5

In cooperation with Jiries Rihani and Sons Co.

Saturday, 15 January - 8:00 p.m.

The NMC Chamber Ensemble

This ensemble comprised of five professional musicians who are also faculty members of The National Music Conservatory will be presenting a memorable recital. Armen Aramian (flute), Ali Shawk (clarinet), Mohammad Othman (piano), Mohammad Ali Abbas (violin/viola), and Ali Hussein Musa (cello) will be playing in various combinations of duets, trios and quartet groups to give a concert of wonderful quality and variety. In the program are pieces by Handel, Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Khachaturian and others.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Ticket Price: JD 5

Monday, 31 January - 8:00 p.m.

Cello & Piano Recital

This is the first of a series of concerts to be given during 1994 in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy and the National Music Conservatory. Florian Ritt (cellist) and Rita Medjimorec (pianist) continue the Austrian tradition of producing some of the world's finest music and musicians. This recital will be a first for Jordan, and should not be missed.

The Royal Cultural Centre Main Theatre

Ticket Price: JD 5

In cooperation with the Austrian Embassy.

TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the retendering of the following tenders as part of the Education Sector Investment Project.

Tender's No.	Title	Financed through:	Fees JD	Closing date
6/92	B.W. Computer	IBRD (3106-JO)	JD (50)	Monday Jan. 31st, 94 (10:00 a.m.)
3/93	Wooden pallets & steel frames (local tender)	IBRD (3106-JO)	JD (100)	Monday Jan. 31st, 94 (10:00 a.m.)
13/92	Lab. Equipment	OECF (JO-P8)	JD (50)	Tuesday, Feb. 15, 94 (11:00 a.m.)
14/92	Audio Visual Aids.	OECF (JO-P8)	JD (25)	Tuesday, Feb. 15, 94 (11:00 a.m.)
15/92	Sports Equipment	OECF (JO-P8)	JD (25)	Tuesday, Feb. 15, 94 (11:00 a.m.)
16/92	Arts & Craft W/Sh.	OECF (JO-P8)	JD (35)	Tuesday Feb. 15, 94 (11:00 a.m.)
17/92	Pre-Vocational Education Equipment	OECF (JO-P8)	JD (35)	Tuesday Feb. 15, 94 (11:00 a.m.)

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting Jan. 5, 1994 against the payment of the above fees.

Head of Special Tenders Committee.

Chairman of Tel Aviv Stock Exchange cautiously views '94

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange index rose by 29 per cent last year but its chairman is taking a cautious view for 1994.

In his annual report, Haim Stossel said: "Future developments in the stock market depend, more than in the past, on a mixture of political and economic factors that are not easily forecast."

The market's sensitivity to Middle East peace moves was illustrated in September when the signing of a self-rule deal between Israel and the PLO pulled it out of a five-month slump.

Official estimates issued at the end of the year showed a 29.3 per cent increase in the general market index, which rose to 270.2 on a base of 100 set at the start of 1992. The Mishtanim index of 100 blue chip shares was up 17.1 per cent, to 248.54.

In 1992, the general index

soared nearly 74 per cent and the Mishtanim index 79 per cent over the year after the government allowed pension funds to play the market for the first time.

Mr. Stossel described 1993 as a year in which stock market activity reached new dimensions in Israel.

"In 1993, 186 new companies offered their shares and the number of issues traded reached 1,140 from 777 at the end of 1992," he said.

"These growth rates are unprecedented when compared to the norm on developed markets and also to past years of growth on the Tel Aviv exchange," he pointed out.

Daily volume rose 112 per cent in 1993 to 357 million shekels (\$125.8 million) from 168 million shekels (currently \$56.4 million) in 1992.

The total worth of shares traded increased by 62 per cent to 146 billion shekels (\$49 bil-

lion). In all, 9.5 billion shekels (\$3.2 billion) was raised on the share market last year. About a third of the sum came from privatisations.

"The tremendous increase in the number of companies listed on the exchange could continue in 1994 if there is no turn for the worse in the economic situation," Mr. Stossel said.

Israel's gross domestic product grew by 3.5 per cent in 1993, according to official figures released last week. Unemployment, at 10.4 per cent, was expected to fall, on course to top 11 per cent in 1993, was forecast to fall to eight per cent.

Mr. Stossel said he was disappointed the government had not privatised more companies in 1993, such as the state airline El Al, Zim Shipping, Israel Chemicals and the Bezeq telecommunications firm.

But the resumption in 1993

of trading in shares of partly privatised Bank Hapoalim Ltd. and Bank Leumi Ltd., the country's biggest commercial banks, boosted the market's worth by 11 billion shekels (\$3.7 billion).

Market figures showed the government sold shares and options in Bank Leumi worth 500 million shekels (\$167.8 million). Bank Hapoalim shares and options brought in about 1.5 billion shekels (\$500 million).

But a second offering of a 10 per cent stake in Bank Hapoalim flopped in November, causing the government to delay a second Bank Leumi offering scheduled for the end of 1993. The government bought the banks after a 1983 shares scandal.

Turkish stocks may face new year hangover

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul's stock exchange rose an intoxicating 194 per cent in dollar terms in 1993, but Turkey's economic woes could give at a new year hangover, brokers say.

"It's going to be a fluctuating year," said Ali Nezir Akyol, equity trading manager at Turk Ekonomi Bankasi (TEB).

"There are too many risks," said Sami Erol, deputy chairman at Global Brokers. "There were rock-bottom prices in 1993 but now price/earnings ratios have risen too much."

Buoyed by Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's support for capital markets expansion, the growth of equity funds taking advantage of tax incentives and a weak dollar, the 60-share composite index soared fivefold last year to finish at 20,682.

The average price/earnings

ratio based on year-on-year company profits in June 1993 swelled to 25.75 from 7.4 at the start of the year.

Market capitalisation was \$46 trillion lira (\$36.4 billion) at end-1993, against 85 trillion (\$5.6 billion) a year earlier.

The exchange passed another milestone when it launched partial computer trading in December.

But brokers fear the heady times could be over. They say investors could be deterred by worsening economic fundamentals and a perception that the government is unlikely to act firmly to correct them ahead of local elections in March.

Six months after Ms. Ciller took over the helm of the coalition government, the economy is skating on thin ice.

The U.S. agency Moody's has already said it may reduce Turkey's rating this month from a long-term BAA-3. It

put Turkey under watch in October to examine the effect of its yawning fiscal and trade deficits on credit risk.

TEB's Akyol said a downgrading was unlikely to trigger a stock market crash, but would have unfavourable re-

percussions. Turkey borrowed \$3.8 billion in foreign bond markets last year, reducing its reliance on expensive domestic funds. But any credit downgrading could shift more funds to dollars.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take care of your routine chores today and try to look on the good side of your situation without discarding anything of value that you may need later on. If you loan items, get a receipt.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) In the face of unexpected changes, it is possible now to realise what your true aims are and proceed in such directions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may feel that conditions are such that you can do nothing to improve them, but if you are more practical and friendly in your business and personal associations, much progress is yours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are very dynamic now and this evening you find that close ties will give you finest advice and benefits. Contact them early and also increase your circle of worthwhile friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Real pleasure can be yours if you go after it quietly, unobtrusively, but be sure you please the public and persons who are truly important.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) By getting together with friends who have your interests at heart, going off to some new sites together, you will get excellent ideas and advice that will mean real progress soon.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It would be very wise to get advice from experts in your field of endeavor today. In the evening you have an opportunity to

help a loved one concerning something important.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look to new friends for finest benefits from today's activities. Business affairs should be handled during the day so that the evening is free for important dinners and personal alone.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can help within your budget today and tonight and still get the important things you need. Also, take health treatments so that you can cooperate with associates more fully.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This can be a very happy day and evening for you if you get together with people you truly like and exchange ideas for successful projects.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) By cooperating with family ties and doing whatever is in your power to please them, fine benefits will accrue for you while establishing far more harmonious relations.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have every opportunity now to show others that you are well versed in whatever matters are at hand; that you can go after current interest in the most modern way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Financial affairs are your prime concern today, so be sure you get fine advice from experts in order to handle them adroitly. Set up a better budget.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are going to need to work the angles and engineer others to do things that are important to your present circumstances if you are going to stabilise the efforts you have made for material security.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take care you get all tax, insurance, security matters handled wisely in the morning, later you can relax with a good friend who understand you and is loyal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Resolve not to have an argument with an associate who temper and stubbornness is equal to yours. Make it a point to take him/her to some charming spot for fun instead and save the day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you prepare your tasks well before you tackle them or there can be damage and trouble later. Be careful with delicate things.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be content with inexpensive pleasures today or you can really lose money and get in the red if you follow extravagant tastes.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Courtesy and gentility with close ties pay big dividends today. Strive for greater harmony in that important realm of your life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Care while driving and in conversation with others is a

must today or there can be accidents and trouble. Stay home tonight reading your paper and studying whatever is important to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Monetary affairs should be of prime consideration today, so be sure you handle them properly. Be objective for best results.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Rely on logic and reasoning in today's activities, otherwise if you go by emotion alone you can get into trouble.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) While you may feel that others are not giving you the credit you deserve, take care you do not lose your temper with them or trouble will develop.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of that ally who could take his/her ire out on you because tensions are high. Keep busily occupied at your own tasks.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take care to act very circumspectly today or you lose prestige and the respect which others now hold for you in terms of your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take care you do not leave daily duties behind so that you can meet new people. It won't be worth the trouble. Be steady, then study into new outlet tonight.

Japanese banks dispose of \$19.5b in bad loans

TOKYO (AFP) — The vehicle set up by Japanese banks a year ago to absorb bad loans said Tuesday that it had acquired non-performing assets worth 2,202 billion yen (\$19.5 billion) since March.

The latest figures announced by the Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co. Ltd. showed that banks were suffering even bigger losses on debt write-offs.

The agency said that it had paid 1,210 billion yen for 890 non-performing loans acquired since March, representing 55 per cent of their face value.

But in December alone, the agency had paid only 105 billion yen for some 231 billion yen in bad loans, or 45 per cent of their face value. That compares purchases prices of two-thirds of the face value in the

initial transactions conducted before March and 51 per cent in the six months to September.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported Tuesday that bad loans at major commercial banks were 72 per cent higher than previously disclosed at almost 16 trillion yen.

The leading daily said Hokkaido Tokushoku Bank Ltd., the smallest of 11 city banks, had non-performing loans amounting to 747 billion yen or 15 per cent of its annual lending, three times the average ratio for all city banks.

In addition to the Sept. 30 figure of 9.27 trillion yen already disclosed, the newspaper said the 11 banks had a further 6.7 trillion yen in bad debts, boosting the combined

total to 15.97 trillion yen.

Hokkaido Tokushoku Bank, which had previously disclosed bad loans of 400 billion yen at the end of September, has already stopped lending to Kabuto Decon Inc., a real-estate firm whose president was recently charged with forgery.

The Sapporo-based bank plans to write off loans of 90 billion yen to Kabuto Decon and about 57 billion yen to a leasing affiliate, the Yomiuri said.

In a separate report, the Maimichi Shimbun said that the bank planned to write off more than 100 billion yen in the current fiscal year ending in March, covering the losses by selling shares and possibly real estate.

ly. The government is pledged to replace the coupon with a full national currency, also called som, at an unspecified later date.

In a separate decree published in Narodnoye Slovo, the finance ministry ordered an increase in the prices of some basic foods in state-run shops.

Meat is to rise to 4,500 som a kilogramme from 3,000 som. Milk is to rise to 300 som per litre from 200 som, flour to 250 som a kilogramme from 76 som.

It noted that the government had previously promised that all food prices would be freed from Jan. 1, 1994.

Uzbekistan announces

new taxes, raises food prices

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — The former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan has announced new corporate taxes and raised the prices of some basic foods by up to 50 per cent.

President Islam Karimov said in a decree that companies based in Uzbekistan and earning hard currency must pay 10 per cent of their income in tax to central authorities and five per cent to provincial or city bodies.

He also decreed that such companies must sell a further 15 per cent of their hard currency earnings to the central bank.

The decree carried in the

official Narodnoye Slovo newspaper said the firms engaging in barter trade will also have to pay tax in hard currency.

A government spokesman said he did not know whether the new taxes would be levied on foreign and joint venture firms.

The new taxes aim to build up — this Central Asian nation's hard currency reserves, partly so that the central bank can use hard currency to support the national currency, the decree said.

Uzbekistan uses an interim currency called the som coupon, which has been losing value against the dollar recently.

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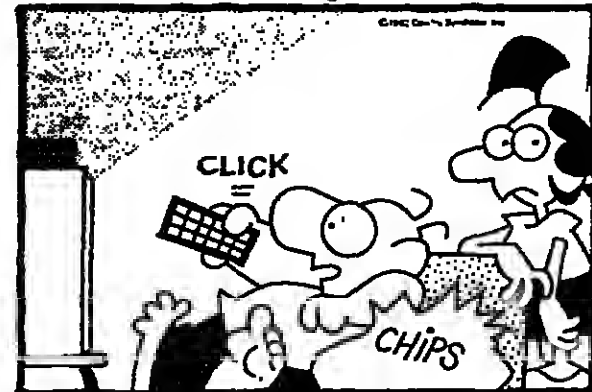
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By Harris



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Andy Capp



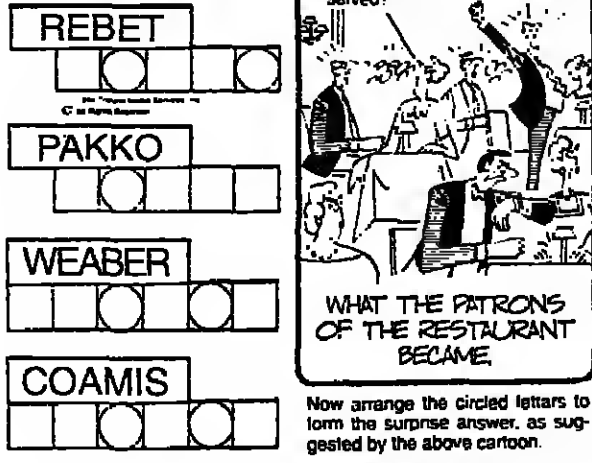
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



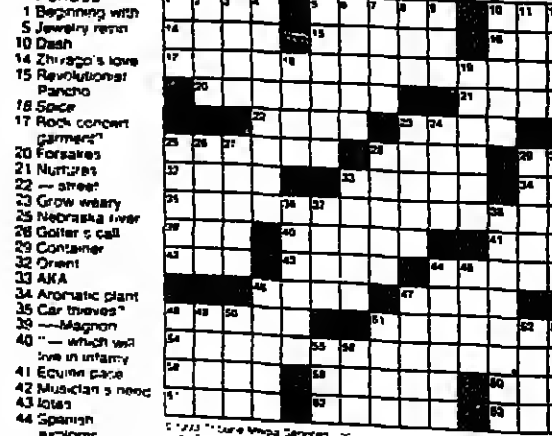
Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP ANISE TWINGE HANSOM

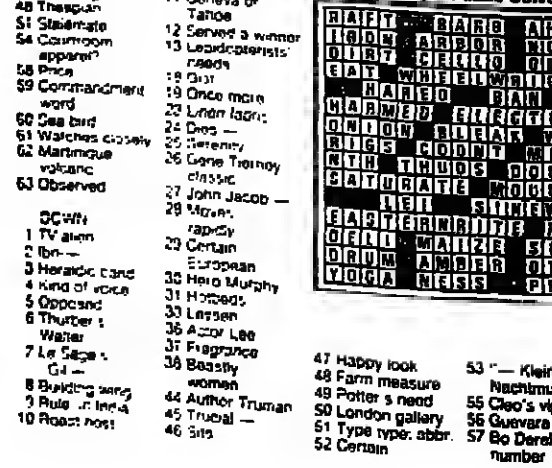
Answer: What they called the birthday preparations — A "WRAP" SESSION

THE Daily Crossword

by Charles R. Woodard



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Lebanon plans new power stations, looks for Syrian gas



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Bosnia fighting shadows peace talks

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian rivals fought across their beleaguered republic Wednesday, accentuating the contrast between the desire for peace voiced at talks in Austria and the stark reality on the ground.

"I'm afraid we have to tell you that what we find on the ground is very different from what we have in the negotiations," Lord Owen told reporters as Bosnian and Croatian negotiators began a second day of talks in the Austrian capital.

"On the ground, the evidence is that the forces are continuing to fight each other in central Bosnia... The movement into central Bosnia of the Muslim forces continues, and also the movement of Croatian forces," he added.

"We do not see any evidence unfortunately of the war itself stopping — rather the contrary. It appeared that the Muslim forces are attempting to take territory like Busovaca and Vitez," Lord Owen added, referring to encircled Croatian enclaves in the strategic Lasva Valley of central Bosnia.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian Radio reported shelling of Muslim strongholds of Zenica and Tuzla north of Sarajevo Wednesday and of all front lines in the central Lasva Valley, including Gornji Vakuf and Stari Vitez, Tuesday.

Bosnian Muslim leaders have recently warned they would take the Lasva Valley by force if some 65,000 Croat residents did not withdraw.

Croatian radio accused the Muslims of missing 55,000

troops in the area and Croatian officials issued veiled warnings last week that it could send reinforcements to the aid of their ethnic kin if the Muslim offensive were not halted.

But the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, warned Croatia Wednesday to stay out of the Bosnian war or face economic sanctions.

In Vienna Tuesday, both sides at the talks played down that threat. But Lord Owen said it would be a serious escalation of the conflict if Croatia, which already contributes covertly to the Croat side in Bosnia — openly engaged in the war.

The Vienna talks between two of the three warring parties are seen as a vital preliminary to the resumption of full-scale peace negotiations in Geneva on Jan. 18, when the dominant Bosnian Serbs are scheduled to join in.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, who met for five hours at Vienna's imperial Hofburg Palace Tuesday, resumed their discussions Wednesday after aides took rolled maps into the conference.

Both sides said Tuesday's talks had been constructive but added that the toughest issues — the drawing of internal borders and the Muslim demand for access to the Adriatic coast controlled by Croatia — still lay before them.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government and the government of

Croatia agreed Wednesday to "make firm efforts" to prepare a ceasefire implementation plan for all frontlines in central Bosnia and to halt all military activities.

A joint statement issued by Mr. Silajdzic and Mr. Granic said the plan would be put to a summit meeting in Bonn Saturday between Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Frustrated by their impotence in the face of continued fighting in former Yugoslavia, major Western nations seem prepared to pull their U.N. peacekeeping troops out this year — despite potentially dire consequences.

Canada joined a growing number of Western nations that have issued warnings that they will not keep their soldiers in Bosnia indefinitely if the fighting does not stop.

France called for tougher international action in response to the almost daily humiliations suffered by United Nations peacekeeping troops in Bosnia.

Meanwhile, fighting between Bosnia rivals using small arms, machineguns and mortars broke out in the Serb-besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo Wednesday, local reporters said.

Since the start of the week, 23 people have been killed and more than 80 wounded in heavy shelling of the capital.

Bosnian State Radio Wednesday reported heavy front-line fighting around

Vogosca and Zuc, to the north and east of the city, where mainly-Muslim troops were reported to have fought off several Serb infantry assaults in the past 24 hours.

Sarajevo was without electricity and water Wednesday and the U.N. Protection Force said it would take days to repair transmission lines downed in the fighting.

Sarajevo Airport was closed shortly after noon after at least one mortar bomb landed on the tarmac, a United Nations official here told Reuters.

A source at the International Committee of the Red Cross said one of its planes was sitting on the runway unloading when shells began falling in the area. The U.N. official said there were no casualties.

A French U.N. peacekeeper shot dead a Bosnian Serb sniper in Sarajevo on Dec. 25 after the Serb fired at his command post, former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said Wednesday.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, who was in the Bosnian capital at the time of the incident, defended the shooting as a legitimate act of self-defence.

The newspaper Ouest-France, which reported the incident earlier Wednesday, said it was the first time a French soldier serving with United Nations peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo had killed a sniper.

But the French commander of U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, said the shooting was not an isolated incident.



Local officials load dead bodies into a truck outside the Sabana Prison in the west Venezuelan city of Maracaibo following two days of violent riots (AFP photo)

Venezuela boosts security at prisons

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan officials feared further bloodshed boosted security at all prisons Tuesday after 10 people died in a mass prison escape and a day after at least 107 inmates died in a "hellish" riot in another institution.

Forty inmates held from one of Venezuela's largest prisons early Tuesday through a 118-foot (36-metre) tunnel they had dug under the facility. Nine of them were killed in the attempt along with a National Guardsman, officials said.

Security forces fanned out in the communities surrounding the Tocorón Prison, 120 kilometres southwest of Caracas, to find the escaped convicts and captured nine of them during the day.

Tocorón inmates had sought to use as a diversion a Monday riot and fire that killed at least 107 prisoners in Maracaibo, 520 kilometres west of Caracas, who were hounded and hacked to death by immediate knives, officials said.

Zulia State Governor Lulita

Aniyar said the death toll could rise at Maracaibo's Sabana Prison as police continued their search of the facility.

"An intensive process of identification is under way, but a good number of corpses are unidentifiable and, over time, they will deteriorate more," she told Reuters.

Dora Bracho, director general of prisons with the Justice Ministry, said security was boosted at prisons across Venezuela to prevent similar escapes and violence.

Prisoners at Sabana were being transferred to other detention centres while 3,000 anguished people waited outside its gates to learn the fate of family members inside.

Some bodies found at Sabana, described as a battleground of "mafias" using terror and violence to control the sale of food, drugs and even weapons, were reduced to "charred pieces of meat" and at least one inmate was

decapitated.

"It was horrible. They were killing each other," one surviving inmate told Venesid Television. "I saved myself by jumping down onto another floor. If not, I would be dead."

"It was a catastrophe. It was hellish," said another. "I've never seen anything like it."

The riot was ignited when rival gangs, one of them composed of Guajiro Indians, began fighting with makeshift knives and firearms in an apparent bid for control of the prison.

The Indians, reportedly seeking vengeance for the murder of one of their members, locked enemies in a prison area and set it on fire, an unidentified National Guardsman told reporters. Monday's rampage in Sabana was the third uprising in two days at the prison, where officials appeared to have had difficulty controlling two smaller riots. The National Guard put down Monday's rampage.

Pretoria links Cape Town killers to Transkei

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa Wednesday directly linked the killers of four people at a Cape Town pub to the Transkei black homeland, one of Pretoria's most vocal opponents.

"Investigations have established a direct link between the perpetrators of the Heidelberg Tavern atrocity and the territory of the Transkei," Law and Order Minister Hennie Kriel said in a statement.

Mr. Kriel said the weapons used in Thursday's attack on the tavern by black gunmen, in which three women and a man were killed, were "identical" to those used in the massacre of 12 worshippers at St. James' Church in the city in July.

He said it was essential for the matter to be urgently taken up by the multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC), monitoring South Africa's transition from white to majority rule.

Mr. Kriel, calling for a joint investigation by the South African and Transkei police, said he wanted the Executive Council to advise him on how to deal with suspects "who take refuge in independent states."

Transkei, which South Africa has previously accused of harbouring guerrillas of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the armed wing of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), is one of 10 apartheid-created black homelands due for reincorporation after the April 27 all-race election.

Mr. Kriel said investigators had found the Heidelberg Tavern attack and other attacks "could well have been planned and executed from the Transkei."

Dries Van Heerden, spokesman for the TEC set up in December to oversee President F.W. de Klerk's white government during the run up to the election, said the TEC would probably discuss the matter when it met in Pretoria next Tuesday.

He said he doubted whether the council, which is dominated by the ANC, would be called into session earlier, "but it depends on the gravity of Mr. Kriel's complaint and the decision of the (TEC) management committee."

Transkei's military ruler Major-General Bantu Holomisa told Reuters by telephone he had not been informed by South Africa of any breakthrough linking the homeland to the Cape Town killers but welcomed the issue being brought to the TEC.

"That body, the TEC, will handle the matter soberly. I don't have any objections to that. If Hennie Kriel feels we are not cooperating they must go to the TEC. I am glad they are going to the TEC. I think that is a good move on his part," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANC to crack down on rebel units

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) vowed Wednesday to crack down on its rebel self-defence units after fighting between rival bands was blamed for triggering violence in South African townships east of here. At a press conference Wednesday, an ANC spokesman acknowledged that there were "undisciplined elements" in some of the Self-Defence Units (SDUs) — informal armed groups set up around the country in 1991 in response to ongoing violence in black areas. Residents of Johannesburg's eastern townships said trouble between rival SDUs had been simmering for some months and had boiled over last weekend with the murder of a unit commander, allegedly by a rival SDU, the Star newspaper reported Tuesday. Three more SDU members were killed in apparent retaliation, the Star said. ANC spokesman Obed Bapela said gangsters had infiltrated SDUs operating in the Katlehong township, "resulting in malicious rumour-mongering and character assassination of local leaders and members of the SDUs, leading to murder and attacks on their families."

Australian firestorm claims 3rd victim

SYDNEY (AFP) — Units of the Australian army were brought in to help exhausted volunteer firemen fighting a losing battle to control bushfires which had claimed three lives up to late Wednesday, authorities here said. Volunteer Norman John Anthes, 45, became the second bush firefighter and the third person to die in the fires after he was engulfed by flames as he tried to cut down a burning tree just before midnight Tuesday. The accident happened at a nature reserve on the appropriately named Mount Horrible near Bathurst in the eastern state of New South Wales in which some of the worst bushfires for 25 years are still raging. More than 50 fires raging throughout the state Tuesday had mushroomed by Wednesday to more than 70 with a large number out of control, a Bush Fire Service spokeswoman said.

8,100 killed in Kashmir since 1990

NEW DELHI (AFP) — More than 8,100 people have been killed and 3,301 homes, offices and schools destroyed by fire in Kashmir since 1990 when a Muslim secessionist drive turned violent, the Indian government said Wednesday. The statement on the violence linked to the five-year-old separatist campaign in the northern state was the first announcement since Monday when talks between archivists India and Pakistan on Kashmir ended in stalemate. The Indian government said 1,080 people had been abducted in Kashmir by Muslim guerrillas since 1990. It said 2,400 Muslim insurgents had been shot dead by Indian troops and 2,250 civilians had died, of whom 835 were hit by stray bullets during gunbattles between Kashmiri rebels and the security forces. The survey did not reveal the exact number of casualties among the tens of thousands of troops deployed to crush the Muslim insurgency.

Clinton vows to 'stand by' CIA

LANGLEY, Virginia (R) — President Bill Clinton vowed Tuesday to "stand by" the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which some critics want to scale back or scrap now that the cold war is over. On his first visit to the spy agency's sprawling campus-like headquarters since he took office nearly a year ago, Mr. Clinton seemed to go out of his way to show he bore no grudge over intelligence analyses that have complicated his job in some hot spots like Haiti and North Korea. "While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do. I value it, and I respect you for doing it," he said. Last year, the intelligence community circulated a disputed and unflattering psychological profile of exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at a time that the administration was seeking to build support for him. More recently, the CIA and other intelligence agencies said in a classified assessment that North Korea probably had developed one or two nuclear bombs. This deepened Mr. Clinton's dilemma as he tries to reach diplomatic accord with Pyongyang on nuclear inspections while also fulfilling his pledge that "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb."

Yeltsin aide quits to sit in Duma

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Poltoranin, one of the most controversial figures in Russian politics, has quit President Boris Yeltsin's service to take up his seat in parliament. ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday. He was one of six members of the presidential administration that Mr. Yeltsin formally relieved of their duties so they could sit in the State Duma, the lower house of the parliament. Mr. Poltoranin, 54, a leading advocate of radical economic and political reform, has long been a hate figure for Mr. Yeltsin's conservative critics. Widely known as a "drinking buddy" of the 62-year-old president, he has wielded considerable influence from within the administration. His latest post was head of the Federal Information Centre, which oversaw Russia's newspapers and broadcasting media. The centre effectively disappeared in a reorganisation of the administration's media branch announced last month.

Army claims control in Mexico uprising

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — A bloody rebellion in southeastern Mexico appeared to be losing steam Wednesday as hundreds of armed peasants melted into the mountains and the army said it was regaining control.

A government spokesman told reporters that army units had regained "virtual control" of four of the southern towns taken by insurgents from the Zapatista National Liberation Army during a five day rebellion that has killed at least 93 people.

The rebels, who had vowed to fight to the death for the return to their ancestral lands, were pounded late Tuesday with rockets and machine gun fire by units of the Mexican Air Force while army units continued to pour into the area.

Eloy Cantu, a senior Interior Ministry official, told reporters that sections of the southernmost state of Chiapas, where the rebellion began, were not yet "secure" but that life in the region was rapidly returning to normal.

"We have retaken virtual control of four of the towns that were occupied in the early hours of Saturday," Mr. Cantu said at a press conference in San Cristobal de Las Casas, the second city of Chiapas.

The Interior Ministry earlier said six towns were captured by the rebels but it has since changed its count.

1 killed in shooting on Bhutto rivals

LARKANA, Pakistan (AFP) — At least one person was killed and six wounded when police fired Wednesday on several hundred supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the brother of former President Zia-ul-Haq, near the family's ancestral home here, hospital and police sources said.

Police claimed demonstrators had opened fire first. The crowd had gathered at the family's Al-Murtaza residence in Larkana to take part in ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the birth of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, former Pakistan leader and founder of the ruling Pakistan People's Party, who was hanged in 1979 after a military coup.

Fighting erupted between rival Bhutto family factions, police had cordoned off the

premises and set up check points in the city to prevent Murtaza's backers from reaching the graveyard where his father is buried until after Benazir Bhutto had paid her respects.

Murtaza, who was jailed in November on charges of terrorism during the 11-year reign of the late General Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, was refused parole to visit the grave by a Karachi court.

A slogan-chanting crowd suddenly emerged from Al-Murtaza, where Benazir Bhutto's estranged mother Nusrat Bhutto was staying, and tried to march to the grave site 17 kilometres (10 miles) away, witnesses said.

Another group from the city tried to link up by forcing their way through a police barricade

de around the residence.

The senior superintendent of police, Bashir Memon, said police opened fire only after they were fired on by demonstrators, an allegation denied by sources close to Nusrat Bhutto.

Her spokesman said the premises came under a "hail of bullets" and witnesses said numerous bullet marks could be seen in the gate and walls of the house.

"The incident was worse than anything experienced in the darkest days of Zia-ul-Haq," said one of her supporters.

Earlier Benazir Bhutto had visited her father's grave under tight security.

Police ringed the graveyard within a radius of 20 kilometres (12 miles).

Gamsakhurdia has committed suicide — wife

MOSCOW (AFP) — Former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who rebelled against his successor, Eduard Shevardnadze, has committed suicide, his wife Manana was quoted by Interfax as saying Wednesday.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's wife, who was in the Russian Caucasus Republic of Chechnya, said he killed himself on Dec. 31 in a 424-bed military village that was surrounded by government troops.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, 55, was ousted in January 1992 after a brief civil war and was replaced three months later by former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

The fugitive leader spent 18 months in exile in the capital of Chechnya, Grozny, before returning to lead a rebellion against Mr. Shevardnadze in September 1993.

Georgian government troops managed to quash the rebellion in western Georgia last fall, capturing Mr. Gamsakhurdia's main stronghold of Zugdidi, and Mr. Shevardnadze issued a warrant for his arrest.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a human rights activist and former Soviet dissident, rode a wave of nationalism in May 1991 to become Georgia's first democratically-elected president.

But opposition forces charged that he was leading the country towards dictatorship with his tight control over the media and a controversial law that prohibited "insulting the president."

Mr. Kinkel said Monday that he would be willing to meet with Mr. Zhirinovsky.

"I find Klaus Kinkel's offer to meet with Zhirinovsky disconcerting," said Peter Hützel, the secretary general of the CDU in an interview published in the daily Berlin newspaper B.Z.

"It would be a grave error to minimise or even worse to politically boost (Zhirinovsky) by organising public discussion with him or by inviting him for a television debate."

"No reasonable political official should allow himself to be tempted," he added.

Mr. Kinkel said Monday that he would be willing to meet with Mr. Zhirinovsky. "Personally, I'm not scared of talking with him," Mr. Kinkel said. "We can't deny the fact that based on the number of votes he garnered he does have a following in Russia."

Mr. Zhirinovsky threatened Germany with "a third world war" after his visa application was turned down. On Monday he sought to correct his statement by telling a German television station that he was "a friend of Germany."

He is expected to submit another visa application following an invitation to attend a congress of European far-right parties in Cologne next month.

Zhirinovsky wants more cooperation with West

ROME (Agencies) — Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky said Wednesday he wanted to cooperate more with the West and that he was the victim of a slur campaign by the media.

"We are the Liberal Democratic Party in Russia and we already have a good rapport with the West," Mr. Zhirinovsky told Italian state radio.

"Our strategy is oriented towards improving that relationship with Western nations."

Mr. Zhirinovsky, leader of the extreme-right Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR), has frequently advocated restoring a Russian empire extending as far south as the Indian Ocean.

The party's success in Dec. 12 polls when it won about a seventh of the new parliament's seats, stunned the political establishment and sent shockwaves through Russia's neighbours.

Mr. Zhirinovsky has made some efforts since his party's electoral success to project a more moderate image, but made headlines last week when he was expelled from Bulgaria and refused an entry visa by German authorities.

Mr. Zhirinovsky described his party as centrist and said it

had no intention of forging ties with extremist groups on the right or left in Europe. He said the media wanted to paint him as an anti-Semitic and war monger.

"Journalists have written that I am an anti-Semite. That is absolutely false. My party is against any type of discrimination," he said.

"They will do anything to maintain the image of the party in the eyes of their readers, accusing us either of anti-Semitism or even of Zionism."

The LDPR leader said the media had misinterpreted statements he made in Vienna last month about Russia's alleged "superpower" which newspapers said Mr. Zhirinovsky had claimed was capable of destroying Europe.

"Russia still has the military means to defend itself," he said. "But I never said that we had the intention of attacking any country."

Mr. Zhirinovsky's party said Wednesday it was proposing an amnesty for people convicted of political and economic crimes since 1989.

A spokesman for LDPR confirmed a report by ITAR-TASS news agency that it had prepared a draft amnesty decree for discussion by Russia's new parliament, which meets

for the first time next week. A statement by the party said such an amnesty would be a "New Year present" and "a step on the road to consolidation of society," TASS said.

The spokesman noted that numerous political and economic activities which were illegal under Soviet Communism since it collapsed.

He said the LDPR also favoured calling off the protracted trial of top Soviet officials over a failed 1991 Kremlin coup, and dropping charges against people involved in a blood rebellion against President Boris Yeltsin last October.

Mr. Zhirinovsky has said Russians should put behind them the bloody October events in which at least 147 people were killed and concentrate on healing divisions in society.

His party emerged unexpectedly as the single biggest faction with about a seventh of the 350 seats in the lower chamber of the State Duma after last month's parliamentary elections.

In Berlin, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) criticised Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel Wednesday for recently ex-

Houston, Jackson lead likely Grammy nominees

NEW YORK (R) — Pop stars Whitney Houston and Janet Jackson are good bets to be on the short list of this year's Grammy Award nominees, a prestigious honour that does not always translate into increased record sales. The 81 categories of Grammy Awards — a wide spectrum that includes pop, rock, jazz and classical music — are supposed to be based on "quality in the art of recording," according to a spokesman for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, whose members vote on the winners. Names of the nominees will be released Thursday at a ceremony in New York's historic Apollo Theatre that will be simultaneously conducted in Los Angeles. The 36th annual awards ceremony will be held at New York's Radio City Music Hall on March 1. But critics snipe that the Grammy Awards pay more attention to commercial success than artistic achievement. As a practical matter, the best gauge of a performer's chances for a Grammy is their showing at the cash register. By that standard, the easiest way to handicap probable Grammy nominees is by taking note of their sales performance in the year just past — between Oct. 1, 1992 and Sept. 30, 1993. Leading the pack in album sales for 1993 was pop star Whitney Houston, whose album, The Bodyguard sold 5.3 million copies and earned more than \$67 million. Following on Houston's heels was rhythm and blues singer Jackson, who sold 4.1 million copies of Janet. The year's third best-selling album was Kenny G's Breathless, which sold 3.5 million copies. Fourth best were grunge rockers Pearl Jam, whose VS. sold 3.5 million copies.

Michael Jackson keeps low profile

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) — Singer Michael Jackson has dropped out of sight again after suffering briefly in this city of glittering stars and high rollers. Jackson arrived Thursday at the Mirage Hotel flanked by bodyguards and in the company of former junk bond king Michael Milken and Mirage chairman Steve Wynn, according to a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Jackson, who is facing child-molestation charges in Los Angeles, spent two hours Saturday afternoon at the MGM Grand Hotel's theme park and was "heavily disguised," said hotel spokesman Tom Bruny. He attended Barbra Streisand's concert Saturday at the MGM Grand where he was whisked out by bodyguards and police just as the show ended. It was not known if Jackson had headed back to his ranch near Santa Barbara, California where he has been staying in seclusion since he cancelled his Dangerous tour and returned to the United States last month.

Caught hook, line and sarong

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Villagers caught a jobless man and handed him to police after he tried to lift the sarong of a sleeping woman with a hook and line from the roof of her house, the New Straits Times reported Wednesday. The woman screamed and villagers in the central Malaysian state of Perak nabbed the man as he tried to flee. He was carrying a large metal hook and line, and police later found more hooks at his house nearby. Police classified the case as "outraging the modesty of the woman." The newspaper quoted a police spokesman as saying the man would usually put on a mask, climb on the roof of houses and lower a hook to lift the clothes of sleeping women. Some of his victims were injured, the spokesman added.

Roseanne Arnold says she worked as prostitute

NEW YORK (AP) — Television star Roseanne Arnold said she worked as a prostitute and serviced customers in the back seats of cars between jobs while she struggled as a comedian. "I felt powerful," she said in the February issue of Vanity Fair magazine. "And in control. ... I think prostitution should be legal, because the way any society treats prostitutes reflects directly how it treats the highest, most powerful woman." Arnold, the star of the television comedy series Roseanne, said she worked as a prostitute to support her children.

Man. United, Liverpool draw in 6-goal classic

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — English champions Manchester United and former premier club Liverpool served up a six-goal classic here Tuesday that earned a standing ovation from a packed 43,000 crowd.

It was the perfect advert for action-packed British football — yet Alex Ferguson's premiership were left kicking themselves after leading 3-0 inside the first half-an-hour only to be pegged back by Graeme Souness's never-say-die side.

A Steve Bruce header, followed by a Ryan Giggs wonder goal and a perfect free-kick from Denis Irwin all within a quarter of an hour of each other seemed to have secured the points at Anfield.

But Nigel Clough responded with a double before the break.

The Neil Ruddock saw that justice was done with just ten minutes to go, thundering home a bullet header to make it 3-3 after substitute Stig Inge Bjornebye had floated over a cross with almost his first touch of the game.

The first half proved a classic, punctuated by the five goals, non-stop action and total commitment.

As early as the first minute Robbie Fowler was let in after a long shot bounced to him of a defender but he fired over when it looked easier to score.

Peter Schmeichel had to dash onto seconds later to smother another attack as Liverpool upped the pace but United turned the game on its head in the next quarter of an hour.

First Bruce sneaked in between two defenders in the ninth minute to head down past Grobbelaar after Cantona had chipped over a harmless-looking cross from the left.

Then in the 20th minute Giggs produced a magical moment after catching Wright in possession following a loose ball pass from Jamie Redknapp.

The Welsh international, under pressure from the backpedalling Wright and Ruddock, chipped a glorious shot over Grobbelaar from the left corner of the box to make it 2-0.

Liverpool were clearly stunned — but things got even worse four minutes later when Irish fullback Irwin beat an unstoppable free-kick over the defensive wall and into the top left-hand corner.

At 3-0, the home side looked doomed to a thrashing, but the game took a new turn just a minute later.

Midfielder Clough, latching



Everton's Mark Ward (No. 7) rushes to intercept Eddie Newton of Chelsea during the match which Chelsea won 4-2 (AFP photo)

onto the ball 30 yards out, produced a dipping snappshot which curved away from the keeper and ricocheted in off the base of the right post for his seventh goal of the season.

Then, seven minutes from half time, Clough did it again, charging on to a loose ball in the area and drilling the ball into the left corner with Schmeichel stranded.

There was still time for Giggs to totally miss the ball five yards out with Grobbelaar grounded after an earlier and Fowler to net, only to have the goal disallowed after a foul on right back Paul Parker.

The second half was marked by a string of fine saves. Grobbelaar keeping out Giggs in the 62nd minute with a full-length save to his left and Schmeichel responding with an equally good stop seconds later.

Grobbelaar produced another fine block to keep in the game. Edging a Roy Keane drive, around the post, after Eric Cantona had picked him out with a fine ball from the left wing.

Incredibly, Liverpool had 14 shots during the 90 minutes — while United outdid them with 15.

Afterwards Ruddock described it as the greatest game he had ever played in.

Celebrating his second goal in successive games, the defender said: "We were all over the place in the first half hour but

we re-found our shape.

"To get back after being 3-0 down against the champions shows how much potential we have.

"Clough's first goal gave us a glimmer of hope and we thought we could win at half time. The atmosphere was unbelievable — it's the greatest game I have ever played in."

In other Tuesday evening action, Newcastle piped Norwich 2-1 with an 80th minute goal from scoring sensation Andy Cole — his 28th of the season.

But the fans were more worried about chanting their opposition to Everton's reported poaching attempt for the Canaries' manager Mike Walker.

"There's only one Mike Walker," they chorused.

Club Chairman Robert Chase has threatened legal action if Everton approach the Norwich boss after being refused permission, but Walker has indicated a desire to talk with Everton and may yet be tempted with a "double your money" pay package.

The opening goal came after four minutes when Ruel Fox tricked John Beresford and pulled his cross behind retreating defenders for Mark Bowen to volley his fourth goal of the season.

Newcastle hit back with a surprise 20th minute Peter Beardsley equaliser after a

one-two with Lee Clark, the former England international skipping past Gary Megson to score.

Cole hit the woodwork twice while Beardsley glanced the post before the winner.

Everton's headlong drop towards the relegation zone of the English Premier League continued Monday when they lost 4-2 at Chelsea for their fifth successive defeat.

The only comfort caretaker-manager Jimmy Gabriel could take from his side's latest setback was seeing them score for the first time since Dec. 4.

It was revitalised Chelsea's third successive win after their own 11-match run without a victory ended last Tuesday.

Two goals from Mark Stein and one from Craig Burley and Neil Shipperley gave the West London club all three points.

Third-placed Arsenal failed to make much headway on the leading pair when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Queen's Park Rangers.

Arsenal's arch-rivals Tottenham lost for the third time in their four-match holiday programme when they went down 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday. Mark Bright scored the only goal after five minutes.

In another Sheffield-London encounter, West Ham drew 0-0 with relegation-threatened Sheffield United, who have now failed to score in seven of their last eight matches.

Sampras ousted in 1st round by little-known Moroccan in Doha

DOHA (AP) — Pete Sampras, the world No. 1 ranked tennis player, was knocked out in his first round of the \$525,000 Qatar Open Wednesday by little-known Karim Alami of Morocco.

Alami, ranked 204th, pulled off the stunning upset by prevailing over the American in a tense battle 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"I had already made a flight reservation to leave Doha tonight when I found out I was due to play Sampras," said the 20-year-old from Casablanca, who entered the competition via the pre-tournament qualification playoff.

"When I saw the draw I thought to myself that it would be a good experience for me and a good opportunity to play him. He made a lot of mistakes and I played great today."

Sampras said later he had let victory slip through his fingers. "I let him off the hook. I didn't play well at all. I had the match under control, but for a set and a half my serve just vanished," said Sampras, who served up a total of eight double faults in the match.

"This is not the way I wanted to start the year off, but he is a crafty player who played well. It can be difficult against a man who you have never come up against before."

The first round match had been held over from Tuesday because of a slippery surface caused by an unusually high humidity levels. Sampras had been leading 3-1 in the first set.

The American ace, who earned a staggering \$4.5 million last season compared to Alami's meager \$33,000, breezed through the first set.

He broke Alami in the first game of the second set and then held to lead 2-0. But then the Moroccan came back and broke Sampras three times in succession.

The long-shot challenger gained confidence when he took the sixth game of the second set with a sweep drop shot that left Sampras struggling at the back of the court.

Alami won the set when Sampras served up a double fault.

In the final set, Sampras drew first blood by breaking to lead 3-2. But his opponent hit

straight back saving three break points to even the match again.

Both players held serve until Alami was leading 5-4. Sampras then cracked, giving the young Moroccan two match points.

But he only needed one. Sampras smashed a forehand into the net to hand the match to the Moroccan.

"I played great tennis today," said Alami, who goes against Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the second round. "This victory is a present for my father who was here to watch."

Sampras meanwhile vowed to bounce straight back from the defeat.

"I'm very disappointed but upsets happen every day in sport. Today it happened to me," he said. "I played well enough to win. I just didn't (win). Some days you just come up short which hasn't happened too often over the last few years."

He added: "But I will work just as hard as I did last year when I won two Grand Slams."

I can do it again and I'm looking forward to winning another one."

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic was forced Tuesday to battle all the way to reach the second round of the Qatar Open, as three seeded players tumbled out of the tennis tournament on the second day.

The No. 4 seed Croatian star took almost two hours to defeat Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

No. 5 seed Marc Goellner of Germany lost to Holland's Jacco Eltingh 3-6, 6-7, (7-3). No. 7 seed Andrei Cherkasov of Russia went down to Germany's Karsten Braasch 1-6, 6-3, 4-6, while No. 6 seed Javier Sanchez of Spain also lost in the first round to Stefan Pesosolido of Italy 4-6, 2-6.

Going through to the second round is Frenchman Olivier Delaire, who defeated qualifier Fernon Wibier of Holland 7-6, (7-2), 6-2.

French star Henri Leconte made it through to the second round, defeating qualifier and fellow countryman Frederic Vitoux 6-3, 6-2.

Medvedeva advances in Australian hardcourt

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Third seed Natalia Medvedeva advanced to the third round of the Australian Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championship here Wednesday and then described playing in the middle of the day as a crime.

"It's really a crime to play in conditions like this," the 22-year-old Ukrainian said after beating Belgian Sandra Wasserman 6-4, 6-4.

On court temperatures have risen to 55 degrees Celsius at times and have forced two players to retire with heat exhaustion.

"It's very dangerous for the players. Something should be done about the schedule at least," Medvedeva said.

Bulgarian top seed Magdalena Maleeva has also questioned the sanity of having to play in such pressure-cooker conditions.

Women's Tennis Association rules, which allow for play to be delayed under extreme conditions, only relate to the air temperature. But because the rubberised rebound ace surface retains the heat, the

temperatures on-court are often much higher.

Players have even had to change their shoes to cool their feet.

However, Australia's Michelle Jaggard-Lai kept her cool to upset 14th-seeded Mexican Angelica Gavaldon in the second round.

The 24-year-old, who reached the semifinals last year, beat Gavaldon 6-2, 7-6, winning the tie-break 7-5 on her fourth match point.

Muster ousted

In Adelaide, South African Grant Stafford beat top seed Thomas Muster in the rain-hit second round of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championship Wednesday.

Stafford, ranked 86 in the world, upset the super-fit Austrian 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4 to advance to Friday's quarterfinals.

Three lengthy rain delays caused the match to be the only one completed in the day session and Muster, the world No. 9, became the fourth seeded casualty

Czechs reach Hopman final as Australia falter

PERTH, Australia (R) — The Czech Republic stayed on course to become the first nation to win the Hopman Cup team tournament twice by beating Australia in the semifinals Wednesday.

The top seeds were, again well served by Petr Korda who saw off the gallant challenge of Wally Masur 4-6, 6-4 to give his country an unbeatable 2-0 lead after the singles.

Jana Novotna had already won her first singles match in four attempts at the event, outclassing Nicole Provis 6-2, 6-2 in 55 minutes. The Czech pair will now meet either Germany or Austria in the final Friday.

Korda turned his match with Masur around in typically dashing style after switching to a lighter racket at the end of the first set.

"Wally played well in the first set, but I felt like I was sleeping," said Korda, still suffering the after-effects of jet-lag. "I'm improving right now, which is important with the final and Australian Open to come."

Masur broke Korda's serve four times in the one hour 51-minute encounter, but could never quite force the world number 12 totally on the back foot.

"Chances were pretty slim. Today he came back a gear and made certain he made the big shots," said the Australian.

Novotna was scarcely recognizable from the different figure who lost in straight sets to Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 24 hours earlier.

She looked a level above Provis who had beaten her 6-1, 6-4 on the same court last year, and was able to reel off 10 games on the trot on her way from 2-1 down in the first set to 5-0 up in the second.

Her serve was particularly impressive and she had delivered four aces by the time a one-sided match was over.

"I played a very solid match and didn't give Nicole anything," said Novotna. Her opponent was philosophical. "Some days they go out, some days they go out. Today they all went out," Provis said.

Compagnoni giant slalom hat-trick

MORZINE, France (AFP) — Italy's Deborah Compagnoni needed some heart-stopping skiing to beat Austrian Anita Wachter and notch a World Cup giant slalom hat-trick here Wednesday.

Wachter, the World Cup champion, had been lying second to Compagnoni after the first run, and looked the favourite when she clocked 1min 7.16sec on the second —

bettering Heidi Voelker's time by one and a half seconds.

Victory looked to have been sewn up when Compagnoni was clocked two tenths of a second outside the Austrian's time at the intermediary stage.

But Compagnoni made up nearly half a second during a storming run on the lower half of the course to finish in 2:14.47 — 0.27sec ahead of her rival.

Bike rider dies in Paris-Dakar rally

PARIS (AFP) — A Belgian motorbike rider was killed on the Paris-Dakar Rally Wednesday. Michel Sansen, aged 30, fell at high speed from his BMW bike in Mauritania.

He was the first competitor killed in this year's event. Over 30 people have been killed in the rally's 14-year history.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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WHY GUESS?

Neither vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ K J 10	♥ Q J 10 7	♦ A 10 8 4	♣ K 2
EAST			
♠ Q 9 5	♥ A 7 6 3 2	♦ A 8 6 5 3 2	♣ A 4 3
THE BIDDING:			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♠			
If you're a perennial finesseur, your chances of landing six hearts on this deal are about 75 percent. If you're a sound technician, you can increase those odds to almost 100 percent if trumps break 2-1, without destroying other chances if they're 3-0.			
This auction shown is by French internationalists Michel Lebel and Michel Corn, sitting North and South, respectively. North's jump to three clubs showed a heart fit and asked partner to bid a singleton.			
Three hearts asked for aces and four hearts showed three of five, with the king of trumps counting as an ace.			
West led a diamond and, after winning the ace, most players would take a losing finesse in trumps, then try to divine which defender held the queen of spades. On a good day they might even guess right. Corn did not have to rely on inspiration.			
He won the diamond lead with the ace and ruffed a diamond. Next came the ace of hearts and, even though both defenders followed low, the slam was now a virtual lock. The king of clubs served as an entry for another diamond ruff and after cashing the ace of clubs, a club ruff was the link to the table to ruff the last diamond. With the minor suits eliminated, declarer simply exited with a trump. Whichever defender won would either have to break with a trump, picking up the queen for declarer, or yield a ruff-shut.			
What if trumps were 3-0? In that event Corn, like the rest, would have had to guess the location of the queen of spades or bet on the club finesse.			

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Germany England match may be moved or abandoned

BONN (R) — German and English soccer officials will meet later this month to decide whether to go ahead with plans for a friendly international in Hamburg in April on the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The Germans have already given up hopes of staging an under-21 game against England in the city the day before the April 20 friendly because they feared clashes between right-wing extremists, using the match to celebrate the former dictator's birthday, and Hamburg's large number of left-wing groups.

German Soccer Federation (DFB) General Secretary Horst Schmidt said Tuesday

The DFB planned a special meeting with Hamburg officials, who are worried about security, and English Football Association (FA) chiefs to discuss the possibility of crowd trouble.

"We have received a letter from the English federation and from left-wing groups who are expressing concern about the match," Schmidt said.

A spokesman for the English FA in London denied sending the DFB a letter regarding the cancellation of the match but confirmed that discussions with the DFB would be continuing.

Schmidt added: "Later this month we plan to meet Hamburg officials and it is proposed that the English will be represented."

The left-wing groups in Hamburg believe it will be very difficult to avoid trouble if right-wing extremists come to the match."

Hamburg council spokesman Peter Leich said the city's security department was worried about the match in the Volksparkstadion on the outskirts of the city.

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Russia issues new warning over opening NATO to East

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia issued its sternest warning yet to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the West Wednesday, asserting that any moves to admit Moscow's former allies into the alliance would jeopardise the end of the cold war and upset the balance of power in Europe.

In a statement, the Kremlin dismissed multiplying requests for NATO membership from East European states and former Soviet republics as "unconvincing" given Russia's democratic transformation, but said the applications, nonetheless, "worried" President Boris Yeltsin.

The statement was issued a day after Lithuania became the first former Soviet republic formally to ask to join NATO and the text made clear it was directly related to that move.

Expanding NATO, especially to countries immediately bordering Russia, "will trigger a negative response from Russian public opinion" and "will contribute to a growth of undesirable ideas in civilian and military circles," the statement said.

This was viewed as a clear allusion to anti-Western feeling already on the rise in Russia amid electoral gains by extreme nationalists and likely to be exacerbated by a perception

among Russians of further political and military isolation.

Opening NATO would also "lead to military and political destabilisation in a region crucial to the destiny of the world," said the statement, which was issued by Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Russian military and political leaders have already made clear their opposition to expansion of NATO, but Wednesday's statement was particularly firm and came as the Atlantic alliance faced mounting pressures to extend security guarantees eastwards.

Mr. Kostikov said President Yeltsin expected NATO leaders, meeting for a summit next week, to take a clear stand on the issue.

The unexpectedly swift and strong Russian reaction highlighted the dilemma of NATO leaders who already face membership bids from countries such as Poland and Hungary but fear that taking them on board would antagonise Moscow.

The question of whether and when to expand the organisation will dominate next week's summit.

Mr. Yeltsin said in Brussels last month that Russia considered unacceptable any extension of the alliance to include

former Warsaw Pact members.

The anxieties of Russia's East European neighbours have been heightened by last month's strong election showing by the party of ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who advocated the restoration of a Russian empire.

Mr. Kostikov's statement said Moscow respected the right of independent states to join international organisations.

But he criticised the "bloc psychology" of the would-be NATO members. Russia's embrace of democracy and its new military doctrine ruled out aggressive tendencies in foreign policy, and their motives and arguments were therefore unconvincing.

Lithuania's Baltic neighbours supported its position. All three countries of the region regained their independence in 1991, half a century after being annexed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"When our time comes, we'll do the same thing," said Guntars Meierovics, Latvia's state minister for relations with Baltic states and Nordic countries.

But he said by telephone from Riga it would not make sense for Latvia to apply now because, unlike Lithuania, it still had up to 20,000 former Soviet troops on its territory.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. praises peace negotiators

OSLO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised two Israeli and Palestinian negotiators and urged them to keep pressing for a peace accord, Norway's foreign ministry said on Wednesday. Uri Savir, a director general with Israel's foreign ministry, and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Ahmad Qureia are now in Norway to receive a Norwegian honour for their efforts to help sign a deal on Palestinian self-rule. "I am certain that they will continue their efforts to see that the agreement now gets implemented and lays an essential building block for a just and lasting peace," Mr. Christopher said in a letter to Norway's foreign ministry. The letter added: "I can think of no two individuals who have worked harder during the course of the past year for peace, and for the achievement of real reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian people."

Israel gives cash to help collaborators

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The government has given the Shin Beth security service a special budget to help Palestinian collaborators fearing retribution once the autonomy plan goes into effect, the daily Haaretz said Wednesday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has authorised the creation of the budget to help some 2,000 collaborators and their families. They will be evacuated from areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho which come under Palestinian control, or rehoused far from their native villages.

Weizman to visit Turkey this month

ANKARA (AFP) — President Ezer Weizman will make the first official visit by an Israeli head of state to Turkey, from Jan. 24-27, a government statement said Wednesday. His talks with his host, President Suleiman Demirel, will cover the development of bilateral relations in all sectors and international and regional problems. A number of agreements will be signed, particularly covering economic matters, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Tehran sees 'new Israel' in Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — A semi-official Iranian newspaper on Wednesday warned against the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq as a plot by Western countries to create a "new Israel." The English-language Tehran Times predicted that the West's "hatred" for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would prompt it to recognise the self-proclaimed Kurdish government in northern Iraq. The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, "has been designated to implement the plot," it warned. "The creation of a new Israel in northern Iraq could seriously jeopardise the territorial integrity of all countries in the region," it added. The paper called for close cooperation between Iran and Turkey and consultation with Syria and Iraq in a bid to "thwart the Western plot."

Lebanese member of parliament dies

BEIRUT (AP) — Abdullah Rassi, a Greek Orthodox physician-turned-politician and a minister in several previous governments, died Wednesday. He was 65. Dr. Rassi died of cancer in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, a spokesperson said. His was the first death of a deputy in the current 128-member parliament since its installation last summer as interior minister in 1987. Dr. Rassi narrowly escaped death when a bomb exploded in a military helicopter carrying him and the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami from the northern port of Tripoli to Beirut. Mr. Karami was killed, but Dr. Rassi suffered minor facial burns. Dr. Rassi had represented the northern province of Akkar in the house of deputies since 1972. The government will have to call a by-election to fill his seat in the half-Christian, half-Muslim assembly.

Two Ethiopian opposition leaders freed

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Two leaders of Ethiopia's Oromo Liberation Front, who were arrested when they returned from exile to attend a conference held by the opposition in December, have been freed, officials said Wednesday. Lencho Leta and Issa Goumeta were released on Tuesday after they gave a written undertaking to the justice minister "to work peacefully for the transition" in Ethiopia, state radio reported. They were among eight exiled opposition figures arrested on their return to Ethiopia to attend the peace and reconciliation conference organised here last month. The OLF claims to represent the Oromos, one of the largest of Ethiopia's 80 ethnic groups.

Sudan gives nationality to Copts

KHARTOUM (R) — President Omar Hassan Al Bashir has ordered that about 1,000 Copts in Sudan be given Sudanese nationality, an official newspaper reported on Wednesday. Al Ingaz Al Watani said General Bashir issued the directive during a meeting he held with a delegation representing the Copts, headed by the head of the Coptic Church in Khartoum, Bishop Daniel. Another official newspaper, Al Sudan Al Hadith, quoted Gen. Bashir as saying the government served all Sudanese regardless of their religion or beliefs. The paper said Gen. Bashir directed that all Copts denied Sudanese nationality by previous governments should receive it.

PLO team in Riyadh for funeral of envoy

AMMAN (R) — A high-level Palestinian delegation has arrived in Riyadh to attend the funeral of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy, officials in Amman said Wednesday. PLO officials said the team was headed by Salim Zanoun, acting head of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and included Intisar Al Wazir, wife of slain PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir, and Abbas Zaki, a senior aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat. They left Amman late on Tuesday to attend the Wednesday funeral of Sabhi Abo Karsh, the PLO's ambassador in Riyadh, who died early on Tuesday of cancer. Mr. Abo Karsh was a founder of the mainstream PLO faction, Fateh.

Juppe to visit Egypt next week

PARIS (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe will make an official visit to Egypt on Jan. 12 and 13, his spokesman Richard Digne said Wednesday. He will have talks with the country's senior authorities, Mr. Digne said. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak spent France at the end of October and French President Francois Mitterrand spent Christmas in Egypt.

Gulf force to be 15,000 to 17,000

BAHRAIN (AP) — The joint rapid deployment force of the Saudi-led coalition of Gulf countries will be doubled from 8,000 to 15,000-17,000 to reach the strength of a division, the secretary-general of the alliance said Wednesday. The doubling of the force was significant because it gave a concrete signal that Gulf states are intensifying their military cooperation. But the expanded force still would be no match for the armies of Iraq or Iran, and would not have been sufficient to prevent the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. It was the first time that officials have openly given the present and proposed strength of the air, land and sea force list formed in the mid-1980s by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The force, named Peninsula Shield and based in the Saudi northeastern region of Ha'il, was increased when the Iraq forces stormed across the borders of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. To date, it had been said to be 10,000-strong. "Raising the strength of the Peninsula Shield Force from 8,000 to 17,000 is no doubt a good step," said Sheikh Fahmed Al Qasbi, the secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in statements circulated by Bahrain's official Gulf News Agency.

House votes to reconsider Ensour election challenge

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday asked one of its committees to reconsider its ruling in a contest over the election of Deputy Abdullah Ensour in Balqa Governorate to the 12th Parliament.

The committee had initially rejected the contest on the ground that the contestant was a "candidate" rather than a "voter," based on the committee's interpretation of article 59 of the Election Law.

Article 59 states that "every voter has the right to contest the soundness of the election of any member of the Lower House of Parliament..."

According to the same law, no person may run for election unless he/she was registered in the voter lists.

A lengthy debate in which most deputies participated resulted in a vote over a motion by Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh to refer the contest back to the concerned committee for further consideration.

The vote was taken with an overwhelming majority, except for two deputies attending Wednesday's session (Nawaf Al Qadi and Fayad Jarrar), asking the committee to go back to the lists of voters in Balqa Governorate to make sure that Nael Masallah, the contestant who ran on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front, (IAF) was registered as a voter in that district.

A number of deputies, including Mr. Rawabdeh, Mobammad Owaideh and Mohammad Dawoudieh, argued that the committee had met with Mr. Masallah, Dr. Ensour and a number of witnesses after it had rejected the contest.

This argument is based on a legal interpretation that the committee should not have rejected the contest "in form" after conducting in-detail investigations, and having done so should have given a legal verdict on the contest rather than rejecting it on technical grounds.

Abdullah Akaileh, an IAF deputy, said that a candidate is not considered one unless he first qualifies as a voter and the term "voter" does not mean that a candidate cannot be considered a voter.

An exchange of accusations between the committee's head, Deputy Mufleh Ruheimi, and Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Kellani ended with Mr. Ruheimi requesting the House to accept his and other members' resignation from the committee "because we do not accept any accusations."

Speaker Taher Al Masri asked the secretariat to delete this incident from its official records.

The House earlier referred to its Judiciary Committee the temporary education law of 1988 after it came back from the Senate with some adjustments.

During its four-hour session, the House also completed the formation of a number of temporary committees: education, health and environmental safety, rural and badia regions, public freedoms and citizens' rights, agriculture and irrigation, Palestine and occupied Arab territories and power and water strategies.

The House also discussed a number of motions by deputies and complaints presented to the Lower House, such as the civil pension law, decentralisation with regard to local authorities and administrative divisions, the legal dispute between the Ministry of Telecommunications and a printing press on the former's rejection of a telephone directory produced by the press.

The House voted on these and other motions and complaints and referred them to the government, various house committees, and filed others.

Rebel jets bomb Kabul amid Iranian mediation

KABUL (Agencies) — Rebel jets bombed the Afghan capital Kabul Wednesday killing at least one person and injuring six as Iranian diplomats tried to mediate a ceasefire between President Burhanuddin Rabbani and a mutinous northern warlord.

Government troops captured Kabul airport from the militia of ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum on the fifth day of bloody battles for supremacy in Afghanistan that have killed dozens of people and injured more than 1,500.

However, Gen. Dostum's forces pushed Mr. Rabbani's forces back from the warlord's main airport in northern Mazar-e-Sharif, enflaming several of his jets to launch three bombing runs on Kabul and the Bagram airbase a few kilometres north of the capital, government sources said.

These were the first air raids by Gen. Dostum since he launched his coup attempt at dawn on New Year's Day.

Hezbollah-Islami forces loyal to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar began shelling government positions in Kabul late Wednesday.

The group, which had taken an equivocal stance in hostilities started by Gen. Dostum's attack on the government, began firing heavy artillery at government troops, witnesses said.

The faction initially sided

with Gen. Dostum's troops but had seen relatively little action over the past couple of days as observers speculated Mr. Hekmatyar was waiting to assess the military situation.

Major battles Wednesday were still going on as government troops launched an artillery and infantry assault on Bala Hissar Fort — Gen. Dostum's last stronghold in the capital — and fighting raged on in Kabul's Mirzayari residential complex.

Forces under former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud wrested control of the Kabul airport earlier Wednesday, allowing for several air strikes against rebel positions.

But the participation of heavily armed and well-trained Hezbollah-Islami troops could reduce pressure on Gen. Dostum's forces, observers here said, adding that the Iranian Hezbollah-Wahdat remained neutral in the clashes.

Two bombs landed in the diplomatic suburb of Wazir Akbar Khan. One hit the home of the deputy minister of aviation and tourism, who was out at the time, and the other landed near one of the few bakeries still open.

Iranian diplomats were trying to negotiate a temporary truce between the president and Gen. Dostum's forces.

It was unclear whether the diplomats had reached Mr. Hekmatyar who has his base about 25 kilometres south of Kabul.

Leave Somalis alone — secessionist leader

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The leader of the breakaway Somali land republic which declared independence from Somalia in 1991 said Wednesday that the United Nations should leave Somalia to settle their own problems.

President Mohammed Egal, addressing supporters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi after lengthy talks with faction leader Mohammed Farah Aided, said: "The U.N. should not portray Aided as a monster. The U.N. does not understand the complexity of the Somali problem."

U.N. troops last year clashed with supporters of General Aided, the strongman of southern Mogadishu,

and he was declared a wanted man for murderous attacks on Pakistani peacekeeping soldiers. The hunt for him was subsequently called off.

Mr. Egal called for further mediation by leaders of neighbouring African countries to stop Somalia sliding back into chaos after U.S. forces withdrew in March.

He advised the United Nations, repeatedly embroiled in disputes with his government over the world body's refusal to recognise Somali land, to stick to relief work.

"The U.N. should just work as a non-governmental organisation and leave the negotiations to the Somalis and the African leaders in the region," he said.

COLUMN

Hurd backs beleaguered U.K. minister

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Wednesday gave his support to beleaguered Environment Minister Tim Yeo, fighting for his political life after admitting he had a child from an extra-marital affair. "I think he is a particularly worthwhile and effective minister and I hope he stays," Mr. Hurd told BBC Radio as Mr. Yeo's constituency contemplated the fate of the married minister. After meeting local officials in the ruling Conservative Party for almost three hours Tuesday night, Mr. Yeo, 48, said: "I was able to express the regret that I feel for the circumstances that caused so much embarrassment to my constituents." Mr. Yeo has admitted he acted foolishly but refused to resign, saying he would not be bound out of office. Revelations of his affair have been particularly embarrassing to the Conservative Party because it has made morality a central part of its policy and a loud campaign for a return to "back to basics" family values.

After three days of political manoeuvring, Mr. Yeo's political life has been spared. The Environment Minister (P.L.O.) has agreed to a temporary suspension from the party's list of candidates for the next election. The suspension is a temporary measure, and Mr. Yeo is expected to return to the party's list of candidates for the next election. The suspension is a temporary measure, and Mr. Yeo is expected to return to the party's list of candidates for the next election.

Car loaded with 15 people, 4 pets roils into ditch

FAIRFIELD, Iowa (AFP) — A compact car loaded with 15 people, two dogs and two cats skidded off an icy road and rolled over in a ditch, leaving the pets unscathed but three passengers slightly injured, Lori Ann Cable, 30, was charged with failure to control her car. "I was told there were six in the front and nine in the back. I never did ask where the animals were at," said Jefferson County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Droz. The passengers included Mr. Cable's six children and six children of another passenger. Three of the children were treated for minor injuries.

Addressing the conference, focused on the security of the oil supply, he said it was a difficult task to actually arrive at a solution.

He said the conference was a success, and that the participants had agreed to a number of key points.

Bank charges for free lunch

LONDON (R) — A British businessman who took his bank manager out for lunch discovered out to his astonishment that he had been charged £110 (\$163) on his bank statement for the man's time. Chris Reddall, who runs a printing firm in the southern seaside resort of Brighton, said after paying for the lunch and then being charged for two hours and 40 minutes of the manager's time: "It is a total cheek." But a spokesman for Barclays Bank was unrepentant. He told the London Times: "Our manager had to read on the file before lunch and spend a lot of time doing paperwork afterwards."

Lost Haydn sonatas exposed as 'fake'

LONDON (AFP) — Six piano sonatas originally believed to be the work of 18th-century composer Joseph Haydn are probably clever fakes, London's Guardian newspaper reported. The existence of the scores was announced in a front-page story in the Times newspaper, Dec. 15 last year. The pieces were said to have been discovered in the home of an old lady in Munster, Germany, by music teacher Winfried Michel. Although the sonatas were not in Haydn's hand, this was not considered a problem, as sheet music in the past was mostly the work of professional copyists. The Guardian said that the scores had received world renown without any kind of scientific tests being carried out to check their authenticity, despite the fact that so far only photocopies of the originals, sonatas have been made available by Michel. Stephen Roe, the expert in music manuscripts at London's auction house Sotheby's, confirmed to AFP he believed the documents were fake and that the writing was a 20th-century hand. He said: "No-one can prove it. There is only circumstantial evidence, but the overwhelming evidence is so strong that there is no doubt they are forgeries." Michel has insisted the sonatas are genuine, and has said the old lady had made it a condition of their publication that her privacy should be respected. Scholars have long known that a total of eight sonatas dating from the middle of Haydn's life were missing because the composer compiled a catalogue that listed the first few bars (incipits) of each piece.

Britain's Rose to take over U.N. forces in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Lieutenant-General Michael Rose of Britain will become the new commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, the British Defence Ministry said in London Wednesday.

Gen. Rose will succeed Belgian Lt. General Francis Briquemont who has asked to be relieved of his post at the end of the month as commander of the more than 12,000 U.N. troops in Bosnia.

Gen. Rose led the British commando forces in the Falkland Islands war. He is now commander of the United Kingdom field army.

Gen. Rose led the Special Air Services (SAS) commando strike force that spearheaded the British drive to retake the Falklands from the Argentine army in 1982.

In New York, a high ranking U.N. official confirmed that Gen. Briquemont would be replaced by Gen. Rose. Talks, fighting continue, page 8.

Hamas will vote in Palestinian elections, but will boycott rule

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, will vote for a Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho but will boycott its rule, a leading member was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

"(Hamas) will take part in any elections to choose representatives of the Palestinian people provided they are not linked to prior conditions," Mahmoud Al Zohar said in an interview with Al Quds newspaper.

But he added: "It is natural we will not take part in any legislative or executive institution with any relation to self-rule so as not to take on the burden of an agreement that does not accord with our values and political programme."

Under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement signed in September, the two million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will vote by July 13 for a self-governing council.

Hamas is the most powerful opponent of the accord and the vote will be the first major test of its support in the occupied territories against the PLO.

Hamas has previously said it would participate in the elections and many Palestinians believe the group's position will be crucial to the success or failure of Palestinian self-rule.

Hamas has wide support in the Gaza Strip where self-rule will first be tested.

At the same time, Hamas says it will try to avoid conflict with the PLO-run authority that will be cooperating with Israel on security issues.

Mr. Zohar, a lecturer at the

Islamic University of Gaza and one of 415 Hamas supporters expelled to Lebanon in 1992, said Hamas would advise the Palestinian authority to break out of the servile role assigned to it by Israel.

"Even if this is the model imposed on them, they will not fulfil it, just as we will be a tender heart and helping hand and advising tongue to help them with their duties."

Like not bound by deal

Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said he would not feel bound honour the Israeli-PLO agreement if he were elected to power, he said in an interview published in Wednesday's New York Times.

The Likud party leader said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had already broken promises by failing to stop anti-Israeli attacks and by not revoking sections of the PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction.

"Agreements are made to be honoured, but they're not made to be honoured unilaterally," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that in such circumstances the September agreement Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed in Washington was no longer binding on Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu said he would feel no obligation to honour the accord if he were to gain office.

The opposition leader, however, did not go as far as his predecessor, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in vowing to break the agreement.

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